



NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF

**THE COUNTY  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR

**1968**



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THE COUNTY  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
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1968

## HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1968

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### *Chairman :*

Councillor Mrs. J. G. M. HEPPELL

### *Vice-Chairman :*

Alderman A. BRIGGS, O.B.E.

### *Aldermen :*

ALLAN, Mrs. M.

DAWSON, D., O.B.E.

FLEMING, Miss M. E. S.

GARROW, Sir NICHOLAS, O.B.E.

GRAY, J.

HORN, T.

LANGMAN, Mrs. C.

ORDE, Mrs. C. L.

PHILLIPS, J., D.C.M.

RICHARDSON, Mrs. J.

SHARP, Mrs. J.

### *Councillors :*

APPLEBY W.

BOND, Mrs. S. G.

CARR, Mrs. C.

CHAPMAN, S.

CHARTRES, R. A. H.

DIXON, N. J.

EASTON, T.

GIBSON, G. W.

JOHNSTON, A. R.

McFADYEN J. A.

McNEIL, Mrs. M., M.B.E.

MOORE, J. S.

PERCY, Mrs. A.

STEPHENSON, Mrs. E. M.

SUMMERS, Mrs. L. M.

TATE, Mrs. J.

TOWERS, Mrs. A. E. M.

WYLIE, Mrs. M. E.

### *Co-opted Members :*

BIRKETT, J.

PAULIN, Mrs. J. S. C.

SIMPSON-BRASS, Dr. A. McK.

SLACK, W. RENTON B.

WAKE, Mrs. A., M.B.E.

### *Ex-Officio Members :*

Alderman The Right Hon. VISCOUNT RIDLEY, T.D., D.L. (Chairman of the Council).

Alderman G. R. WARDLE (Vice-Chairman of the Council).

Alderman S. T. PICKUP (Chairman of the Finance Committee).

### *Standing Sub-Committees :*

Finance and General Purposes

Midwifery, General Nursing and Child Care

Mental Health

Ambulance Services

Area Health Sub-Committees (8)

Management Sub-Committees of Old Persons Homes (5)



## STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

---

County Medical Officer and Principal School Medical Officer .. ..	J. B. Tilley, O.B.E., M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Deputy County Medical Officer ..	W. Minns, M.B.E., T.D., M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Senior Medical Officer for Child Health and Medical Supervisor of Midwives	Doris Story, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
Senior School Medical Officer .. ..	Sybil A. B. Ward M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
Area Executive Medical Officers—	
North 1 and 2 Areas .. ..	I. G. P. Fraser, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Central Area .. ..	Catherine B. McGregor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Retired 31/3/68) Kathleen Dick, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H. (Commenced 1/4/68)
East Area .. ..	A. Donaldson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
South Area .. ..	H. C. T. Smith, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.P.A.
South East Area .. ..	A. W. Hay, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
Wallsend Area .. ..	G. M. Cubie, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
West Area .. ..	J. M. McEwan, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
County Welfare Officer .. ..	D. N. Holt
Administrative Assistant .. ..	E. W. Woodcock
Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer .. ..	Lilian F. White, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
Assistant County Medical Officers (Maternity and Child Welfare) ..	Margaret Jordon, M.B., B.S. Anna M. Reid, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Blanche Sykes, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. *Frances A. Potter, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B.
Senior Assistant School Medical Officer	Marion Harrison, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
School Medical Officers .. ..	Anne Carruthers, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. *R. T. G. Craig, M.B., B.S. (Resigned 31/5/68) Mary J. Danskin, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H. *Nest David, M.B., B.Ch., D.R.C.O.G., B.Sc. Muriel M. Eustace, L.R.C.P. & S.I., D.P.H. (Commenced 1/4/68) F. W. Fordyce, M.B., B.S. *Shirley Jackson, M.D. (Commenced 10/6/68) J. F. Mather, B.Sc., M.B., B.S., D.P.H. Margaret H. McKeith, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. *Beatrice M. Noble, M.B., B.S. R. B. Smith, M.B., Ch.B.
Chest Physicians * .. ..	J. M. Gilmore, M.D., D.P.H. J. R. Lauckner, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., F.R.F.P.S. P. O. Leggat, M.D., M.R.C.P. A. R. Somner, M.D., F.R.C.P.E. E. A. Spriggs, D.M., F.R.C.P. C. Verity, M.D., D.P.H. F. L. Wollaston, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

## Staff of the Health Department—*continued.*

Principal Dental Officer	..	..	A. E. Robinson, F.D.S., R.C.S.
Deputy Principal Dental Officer	..	..	T. A. Ireland, L.D.S.
Orthodontist	..	..	G. W. Pettigrew, L.D.S., D.D.O.
Area Dental Officers :—			
North Area	..	..	S. J. Smithson, L.D.S.
South Area	..	..	G. C. J. Long, B.D.S.
East Area	..	..	C. L. Carmichael, B.D.S.
			(Leave of absence from 8/10/68)
West Area	..	..	Helen C. Gent, B.D.S.
Senior Dental Officers :—	..	..	R. S. Ferrell, L.D.S.
			Margaret I. Lamb, L.D.S.
			Patricia Nicholson, L.D.S.
			W. Robson, L.D.S.
			E. G. Stuart, B.D.S.
			R. W. Whittingham, B.D.S.
Dental Officers :—	..	..	I. W. Atchison, B.D.S.
			M. S. Baglee, B.D.S.
			P. R. A. Bennett, B.D.S.
			H. J. Coombes, L.D.S.
			C. I. Cousins, B.D.S.
			(Commenced 1/3/68)
			Sheila M. Crute, B.D.S.
			Wilma S. Drury, L.D.S.
			Margaret P. Furness, B.D.S.
			(Resigned 30/9/68)
			T. D. Harrison, B.D.S.
			J. F. Horseman, L.D.S.
			J. D. Lamb, B.D.S.
			J. W. K. Lumley, L.D.S.
			(Commenced 1/10/68)
			T. M. Mahadervan, L.D.S.
			C. A. Nutt, L.D.S.
			Olive I. Wears, B.D.S.
			Shirley E. Williams, L.D.S.
Dental Auxiliary	..	..	Susan Weatherill
			(Resigned 30/6/68)
County Nursing Officer	..	..	Yvette Esme Buckoke, S.R.N., S.C.M.,
			H.V. Cert., Nursing Admin. (Public
			Health) Cert.
Area Nursing Officers	..	..	Noel Cowley, S.R.N., C.M.B. (Part I),
			H.V. Cert.
			Sheila N. Lockey, S.R.N., S.C.M.,
			H.V. Cert., Nursing Admin. Cert.
			(Edin. Univ.)
			Gladys Saint, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
			Cert.
Health Visitors	..	..	102
Midwives	..	..	19
District Nurse/Midwives	..	..	52
District Nurses	..	..	56
Total Community Nursing			
Staff	..	..	229
Social Worker	..	..	Dorothy L. Dunn
County Health Inspector	..	..	D. Lister, Cert. S.I.B., F.R.S.H.,
			F.A.P.H.I.
Ambulance Officer	..	..	H. Wade
Deputy Ambulance Officer	..	..	G. S. Watt
			(Resigned 31/5/68)
			S. Wilkes
			(Commenced 1/7/68)

## Staff of the Health Department—*continued.*

Station Officers	..	..	12	
Ambulance Drivers	..	..	131	
Senior Mental Welfare Officer	..	..		L. Armstrong
Mental Welfare Officers	..	..		J. A. Denton, S.R.N., S.R.M.N., C.S.W. (Commenced 1/10/1968)
				W. C. Elliott
				I. C. Forster, S.R.M.N. (Commenced 2/1/68)
				G. T. Harrison
				J. E. Kendall, C.S.W. (Resigned 23/9/68)
				A. M. C. Laing (Commenced 1/8/68)
				T. Pattie, C.S.W.
				W. R. Pringle
				J. J. D. Richardson
				R. Tebble
				C. I. Vass
				J. E. Walker
Welfare Assistant	..	..	..	Maud Winters
Supervisors of Training Centres—				
Alnwick	..	..	..	G. Cummings, Dip. N.A.M.H.
Ashington	..	..	..	Nancy E. Anderson, Dip. N.A.M.H.
Bedlington	..	..	..	Margaret Fisher, R.M.P.A.
Berwick	..	..	..	Alfreda M. Small, Dip. N.A.M.H.
Hexham	..	..	..	Margaret Usher, Dip. Teacher, M.H.
Prudhoe	..	..	..	Margaret Tulip, R.M.P.A.
Wallsend	..	..	..	G. Sanderson M.B.E. Dip. N.A.M.H., R.M.P.A.
Industrial Units—				
Blyth	..	..	..	W. R. Barnes, Dip. N.A.M.H., S.E.N. (Resigned 31/10/68)
				D. R. L. Dunsmuir, Dip. Teacher, M.H. (Commenced 11/11/68)
Willington Quay				J. A. McDonald, Dip. Teacher, M.H.
Home Help Organisers	..	..	..	Rose A. Atkinson
				Mary J. W. Beal
				Mary Murphy
				Marion Ritchie
Home Helps	..	..	..	1,092
Chiropodists	..	..	..	S. H. Brown, L.Ch. (Commenced 29/4/68)
				*Muriel I. Bryce, S.R.Ch. (Commenced 10/10/68)
				Laura T. Clarke, L.Ch.
				R. W. Davison, S.R.Ch. (Commenced 1/2/68)
				Robert J. Falkous, L.Ch.
				J. Flynn, L.Ch., H.Ch.D.
				*Mary M. C. Kerr, M.Ch.S.
				*Claudine D. Kyffin, M.Ch.S.
				*Sheila Redfearn, M.Ch.S. (Commenced 8/10/68)
				*Barbara A. Vernon, M.Ch.S.
				Susan G. Watson, S.R.Ch.
				Beatrice M. Wharton, M.Ch.S. (Resigned 29/9/68)
				Heather Wolters, A.Ch.S. (Resigned 30/4/68)
Supervisor of Welfare of the Handicapped	..	..	..	Eileen Metcalfe, H.T. Cert.

## Staff of the Health Department—*continued.*

Social Welfare Officers of the Blind..			Joan Duell, H.T. Cert. Jane T. Hogarth, H.T. Cert. Isobel M. Kay, H.T. Cert. Hilary G. Loten, H.T. Cert. *Mary Marshall, H.T. Cert. Margaret McGuire, H.T. Cert. Joyce H. I. Thompson, H.T. Cert.
Welfare Visitor for Physically Handicapped .. ..			M. Winifred Patterson, H.T. Cert.
Welfare Assistants .. ..			Lillias Deagle Pauline Farries Joan C. Lamb
Handicraft Instructors.. ..			Gertrude M. Atchison Maureen M. F. Bainbridge *Margaret J. H. Cadzow, M.A.O.T. *Rachel Darling, M.A.O.T. Elizabeth Garbutt Evelyn M. Hall
Superintendents and/or Matrons of Welfare Homes :—			
Essendene, Ashington .. ..			Marguerite M. Barnfather
Bell View, Belford .. ..			Annie Barrs
Seton Hall, Tweedmouth .. ..			Phyllis M. Dickson
Cowpen House, Blyth .. ..			Beatrice I. Colvin
Doxford Hall, Chathill .. ..			Dorrien Shirran, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Greenholme, Haltwhistle .. ..			Lilian M. Matthews (Commenced 1/9/68)
Nicholas Garrow Home, Hepscott..			Mary E. Mattison
Haining Croft, Hexham .. ..			Marion J. Reed (nee Hay)
Merley Croft, Morpeth .. ..			Eleanor N. Thompson, S.E.N.
Northfield, Morpeth.. ..			W. J. Minter and Mary Minter, S.R.N.
Springfield, Morpeth .. ..			do. do.
Priorsdale, Newcastle .. ..			Isabella J. McGarrigle, S.E.N.
Thomas Taylor Homes, Stannington			W. J. Minter and Mary Minter, S.R.N.
Tynedale, Wallsend.. ..			Mary N. Roche, R.M.P.A. (Resigned 31/8/68) Margaret N. Reavley (Commenced 2/9/68)
Ralph Allan Home, Warkworth ..			J. C. Cooke and Megan Cooke, S.E.N.
Earsdon Grange, Whitley Bay ..			Lucy Whiteman, S.E.N.
			* Part-time



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman,

During the year two entirely new preventive measures were introduced in the county, the first being immunisation against measles and the second fluoridation of the water supplies to reduce dental disease. The virtual elimination of diphtheria and poliomyelitis by immunisation gives sound grounds for the expectation that the extension of measles vaccination will lead to a similar decline in this disease, the complications of which are a great hazard in infancy. Fluoridation of water supplies was the subject of an agreement between the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company and the Council who had accepted the case for the use of this method of reducing dental decay, and the first part of the scheme came into operation in October, 1968.

These are the most recent additions to the preventive procedures which are carried out in the county. In recent years the screening of infants for a possible cause of mental subnormality, for impairment of hearing and for possible developmental defects, as well as cervical cytology for prevention of cancer have all been added to the measures undertaken by the Health Department in collaboration with the hospital and family doctor service. Research continues constantly and we can look forward with confidence to new methods of prevention of illness being brought into use in the future.

Ante-natal care is a preventive measure which has been practised with increasing thoroughness for many years. It involves co-operation between all three parts of the National Health Service, co-operation which is equally important in the conduct of the confinement and the subsequent care of the child. The continuing success of this work is shown by the fact that for the second year there was not a single death from childbirth, and infant mortality was less than that in the country as a whole, and less than in any other year save one in the county records.

The increasing tendency for hospital confinement materially affects the service that the Council must provide. The number of babies delivered at home by the Council's midwives has fallen from 1,400 to 400 in the last five years and the report refers to the staff changes which have resulted from this. The arrangement at Ashington Hospital for domiciliary midwives to attend patients in hospital is interesting and points the way to further integration. Hospital confinements now account for 94% of the births in the county. The continued fall in the birth rate to a record low level calls not only for a consideration which is at present being given to maternity beds in hospital, but for scrutiny of the community services. The very rapid growth of the work of the Women's Advisory Clinics following the passing of the National Health Service (Family Planning) Act must materially affect this situ-

ation, and the report shows that the use of the clinics has more than doubled in the last two years.

The extension of the Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act during the year led to a great increase in the registration of nurseries and daily minders. This has called for a considerable increase in the work of the staff, and further expansion will be required. There is a need for additional day nursery accommodation in the county, and consideration must be given to the extent to which the Council should make direct provision to meet this need.

The chiropody service was introduced in 1960 and the occasion is taken to review the progress that has taken place since that date. This was undertaken in conjunction with voluntary bodies throughout the county and this method has been continued, though the voluntary bodies found it increasingly difficult during the year to provide a service, and in some instances the staff of the Department had to take over the work. The demand for the service continues to increase and the number of treatments in 1968 amounted to 36,000 compared with 8,500 in 1960. The difficulties of obtaining staff made it impossible to provide a truly adequate service, and it is to be hoped that more staff may be available in the future to meet the real need in this field.

The work both of the chiropodists and the home helps plays a great part in helping to enable old people to continue to live independently at home. A number of old people, however, need some additional help if they are to remain in the community and it is heartening to note the increase in special housing schemes drawn up by the Boroughs and County Districts in which the County Council pays for the welfare facilities which form part of each scheme. This will ultimately exert a measurable influence on the need for old peoples' homes, but with the existing waiting list and the continued increase in the number of old people in the community, it is clear that even after the home at Cramlington is completed more beds will be needed than the one additional home so far planned.

The work of the training centres for subnormals has been of inestimable benefit to the trainees and their families for many years, but there remains a group of specially severely handicapped individuals for whom attendance at the usual type of training centre is impossible. The provision of increased accommodation for these individuals for whom special care is required was achieved in Wallsend in 1967 and it is gratifying to be able to report that a special care unit of this kind was opened at the Ashington Training Centre in 1968 to serve the mid-county area as far as possible. Both of these units, which meet a very great need, operated most successfully during the year. The care of the individuals attending special care units will call for special consideration when responsibility for junior training centres is transferred to the Education Committee.



Co-operation between the different parts of the National Health Service is constantly in the minds of those involved in the service. The co-operation between St. George's Hospital and the mental health services of the Department calls for special comment, and is an example of which both parts of the service may be justly proud. The report shows the great help the Department received during the year, not only with the mental welfare officers whose work continued to increase, but in the teaching of the health visitors and district nurses.

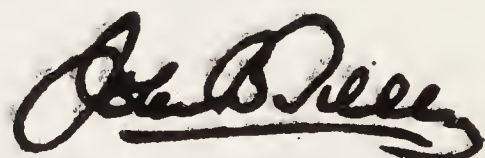
The section of this report which deals with the attachment of staff to groups of general practitioners is of especial interest : nearly two-thirds of the health visitors and half of the district nurses are now working under these arrangements. In no instance has there been a desire to revert to the old system though, as is to be expected, varying degrees of success have been achieved. There can be little doubt that everyone concerned benefits by this method of team working and arrangements are currently in hand for its extension.

Progress with the provision of Health Centres in the county has been exceedingly slow, as difficulties with sites have been met with again and again. During the year, however, progress was made with the schemes for Bedlington and Woodlands Park, and it is satisfactory to know that at the time of writing work has started on the former, and the latter is in operation.

During the year a record number of over 5,000 new houses were built in the county, and slum clearance accounted for the closure of 1,000 unfit houses. These are factors of the greatest importance in their effect upon the health of the community, and the report shows in the other environmental services of water supply and sewerage the steady progress that was maintained during the year.

In almost every aspect the work of the Department increased during the year, and the services were maintained at a satisfactory level by the unremitting efforts of the staff concerned. I am conscious of the debt I owe to everyone who has supported me during the year, and I am grateful to them. All of us realise the interest members have shown at all times, and I would specially thank the Chairman of the Health Committee for her advice and support.

I am Sir, Your Obedient Servant,



*County Medical Officer of Health.*

COUNTY HALL,  
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE1 1SA.  
Telephone : Newcastle 29181.

## REPORT OF THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1968

### VITAL STATISTICS

Population .. .. .	504,690
Live Births—	
number .. .. .	7,171
rate per 1,000 population .. .. .	14.2
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent of total live births) .. .. .	5.8
Still Births—	
number .. .. .	99
rate per thousand total live and still births .. .. .	13.6
Total live and still births .. .. .	7,270
Infant Deaths (under 1 year) .. .. .	118
Infant mortality rates—	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births .. .. .	16.46
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births .. .. .	16.43
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births .. .. .	16.87
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) .. .. .	11.57
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) .. .. .	9.48
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live and still births) .. .. .	23.10
Maternal mortality (including abortion)—	
Number of deaths .. .. .	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births .. .. .	Nil

### Population

While the population of the county as a whole remained almost unchanged there were changes in several of the county districts. In Castle Ward and Newburn the population increased by some 1,500 and 900 respectively, but the figures for Wallsend showed a decrease of 1,000 and those for Blyth a fall of 700. The populations of Ashington and Bedlington were also reduced, and the decline in the population of Bellingham, Glendale and Rothbury rural districts continued.

### Birth Rate

There were 7,171 babies born during the year which was 269 less than in 1967, and 1,200 less than in 1963. This was the sixth successive year in which the birth rate was reduced, and the rate of 14.21 was the lowest ever recorded in the county. The rate for England and Wales although reduced to 16.9 was markedly higher than that for the county.

The reduction in the number of births is reflected in the sections of this report dealing with the midwifery and the child health services.

### Infant Mortality Rate

There were 118 deaths of infants under the age of one year, which was 18 less than the year before, and the infant mortality



rate for the county was reduced to 16.46 per 1,000 live births. This was lower than any previous year save 1965, and was again lower than the national rate.

The stillbirth rate and the early neo-natal mortality rates both fell below all previously recorded levels, and in consequence the same was true for peri-natal mortality ; all of these rates were lower than those for England and Wales.

### General Death Rate

The general death rate was 12.70 per 1,000 population, which was an increase on the previous year and greater than the national rate.

### PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF MORTALITY

The total number of deaths from all causes was 6,412. The chief causes are shown in the following table :—

				Number of Deaths		
				1968	1967	1966
Heart Disease :—						
Ischaemic Heart Disease	..		175	1403 *	1332 *	
Hypertensive Disease	..		119	67 *	87 *	
Other	.. .. .		399	641 *	669 *	
				2268	2111 *	2088 *
Malignant Neoplasm :—						
Stomach	.. .. .		169	130	141	
Lung, Bronchus	.. .. .		302	273	270	
Breast	.. .. .		109	79	88	
Uterus..	.. .. .		39	41	38	
Other	.. .. .		566	481	536	
				1185	1004	1073
Vascular Lesions of Nervous						
System	.. .. .		932	999	1023	
Bronchitis	.. .. .		334	292	316	
Pneumonia	.. .. .		375	227	343	
Motor Vehicle and other Ac-						
cidents..	.. .. .		209	229	256	
Other Diseases of Circulatory						
System	.. .. .		285	238	252	
				5,588	5,100	5,351

\* Not comparable with 1968 figures

The number of deaths from cancer of the lung was the largest recorded in the county, and emphasised the need for continued health education to stress the risks of cigarette smoking in connection with this disease. There was for the second year a welcome reduction in the deaths from accidents of all kinds including motor accidents.



## ROAD SAFETY

Mr. C. H. Cooksley, the Chief Constable, has forwarded me his annual report on road accidents and from it I have extracted the following facts :—

The number of accidents and the number of persons killed decreased for the third year running. There were 5,310 accidents and details of the 65 fatalities are as follows :—

(a) Children under 15	Pedestrians	7	}	8
	Passengers in			
	Goods Vehicles	1		
	Pedal cyclists	Nil		
(b) Adults 15 to 60 years	Drivers	14	}	39
	Passengers in vehicles	9		
	Pedestrians	7		
	Motor cycle riders	7		
	Pedal cyclists	Nil		
	Others	2		
(c) Adults over 60 years	Pedestrians	11	}	18
	Passengers in vehicles	3		
	Drivers	2		
	Pedal cyclists	2		

The improvements to the A.1058 which will make the Coast Road a dual carriageway from Wallsend Boundary to Tynemouth were still not completed at the end of the year and the accident figures are still very high.

Similarly, the portion of the A.1 trunk road between the Gosforth boundary and Seaton Burn was responsible for 211 accidents in which two people were killed.

Further improvements to the A.1 and the construction of the approach roads from the Tyne Tunnel are in progress and some improvement in accident figures should show eventually.

I made comment last year on the passing of the Road Safety Act, 1967 in connection with driving under the influence of alcohol. The figures for road accidents after 10 at night show a considerable fall on previous years as do the figures given for Bank Holiday periods when the roads are particularly busy.

In 1966 I remarked that 50 people were injured during the 3 day Christmas holiday ; in 1967 this figure became 22 and this year only 19. This is of interest as the average number of injured on County roads on any day in the year is over 7.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

In August, the Public Health (Notification of Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1968 came into operation and resulted in changes in the diseases which are now notifiable. The list is now as follows :—

Acute Encephalitis	Ophthalmia neonatorum
Acute meningitis	Paratyphoid Fever
Acute poliomyelitis	Plague
Anthrax	Relapsing fever
Cholera	Scarlet fever
Diphtheria	Smallpox
Dysentery	Tetanus
(amoebic or bacillary)	Tuberculosis
Infective jaundice	Typhoid fever
Leprosy	Typhus
Leptospirosis	Whooping cough
Malaria	Yellow fever
Measles	

The number of cases of measles notified was reduced from 4,673 in 1967 to 2,679 this year. The first vaccination programme against the disease commenced in May and by the end of the year 8,722 children, mostly in the age group 2 — 7 years had been vaccinated. This is referred to elsewhere in the report.

Infective jaundice became notifiable for the first time and 189 cases were noted of which 107 were found in Prudhoe Urban District and Alnwick Rural District. There was no epidemic of food poisoning but 33 cases were notified from a total of 14 districts. Once again the County was free from diphtheria, poliomyelitis, smallpox and ophthalmia neonatorum.

## NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACTS

### Co-operation with hospital and family doctor services

The report refers in several sections to the co-operation between the Council's services and the hospital and general practitioner services, but it is perhaps useful to bring together all the facts upon which the references are based. The following list sets out the main areas of co-operation between the services :

130 family doctors see their ante-natal patients in the county clinics assisted by the department's midwives and health visitors ;

10 health visitors and 12 midwives attend ante-natal clinics in practitioners' premises ;

2 health visitors attend child welfare sessions in practitioners' premises ; (In addition 3 health visitors attend in surgeries where a fee is paid by the County Council to the general practitioner for the use of his premises) ;

50 family doctors attend county child health clinics, 5 of which are held in general practice premises ;

56 family doctors carry out cervical smears in county clinics ;  
60 health visitors and 62 district nurses are attached to general practices ;

5 consultant orthopaedic surgeons conduct clinics for children in 7 county premises ;

6 consultant ophthalmologists conduct eye sessions in 26 county clinics ;

2 consultant psychiatrists hold sessions for subnormals in county clinics ;

1 consultant psychiatrist holds outpatient sessions in a county clinic.

In addition hospitals have direct contact with district nurses, health visitors and midwives and the mental welfare officers have regular consultation and instruction sessions in the psychiatric hospitals.



## MATERNITY AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES

(Dr. D. STORY)

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### Notification and Registration of Births

The live birth rate again showed a fall from 14.8 to 14.2 per thousand population and the total registered births fell from 7,440 to 7,171. The birth rate for England and Wales was 16.9 compared with an adjusted rate for the County of 14.2 per thousand population.

Notified births numbered 7,246. 6,837 or 94.4% of these took place in hospital compared with 90.5% last year.

### Still Births

The stillbirth rate fell from 13.9 to 13.6 per thousand registered births. This is the lowest figure ever recorded in the County and is lower than the national average of 14.0 per thousand. Of these 99 births, 59 were premature.

### Premature Births

The incidence of prematurity increased from 505 to 567 births. This is 7.7% of total births. The number of neo-natal deaths in premature babies was 58 out of a total of 508 live premature births. The following statistics are of interest :—

	1966	1967	1968
Premature births per cent of total births .. ..	6.1	6.7	7.7
Premature births per cent of total live births .. ..	5.4	5.8	7.1
Premature neo-natal deaths per cent of total neo-natal deaths .. ..	48.0	57.0	69.9
Premature stillbirths per cent of total stillbirths .. ..	52.0	68.6	59.6
Premature babies survived 4 weeks per cent of total live premature births .. ..	88.0	87.8	88.6

### Neo-Natal Deaths

The mortality of babies in the first four weeks of life showed a fall from 12.5 to 11.6 per thousand live births.

1963	..	..	..	14.38
1964	..	..	..	14.93
1965	..	..	..	12.07
1966	..	..	..	13.49
1967	..	..	..	12.5
1968	..	..	..	11.6

It will be seen from the following table that of the 7,171 births 83 babies died before reaching the age of one month compared with 93 last year :—

Prematurity .. .. .	20
Congenital Abnormalities .. .. .	19
Respiratory Distress Syndrome.. .. .	12
Respiratory Failure—Prematurity .. .. .	8
Haemolytic Disease of Newborn .. .. .	4
Hyaline Membrane Disease .. .. .	3
Septicaemia .. .. .	2
Respiratory Failure .. .. .	1
Prematurity—Pneumonia .. .. .	1
Asphyxia .. .. .	1
Broncho-Pneumonia—General Atherosclerosis .. .. .	1
Apnoeatic Attack—Prematurity .. .. .	1
Peritonitis .. .. .	1
Broncho-Pneumonia .. .. .	1
Atelectasis.. .. .	1
Downs Syndrome—Pneumonia .. .. .	1
Intra-Cranial Haemorrhage .. .. .	1
Gastro-Enteritis .. .. .	1
Anoxia .. .. .	1
Intra-Cerebral Contusion.. .. .	1
Placental Insufficiency .. .. .	1
Intestinal Obstruction .. .. .	1
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>83</b>

### Infant Deaths

The infant mortality rate showed a decrease from 17.6 to 16.5 the number of babies dying in their first year being 118 compared with 131 in 1967. Thus for the second year, the infant mortality rate for the county was lower than that for England and Wales which was 18.0 per 1,000 live births.

	Boroughs and Urban Districts			Rural Districts			Total		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases	2	1	3	—	—	—	2	1	3
Meningococcal Infection .. .. .	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Meningitis .. .. .	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	1	2
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Cerebrovascular Disease .. .. .	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other Diseases of Circulatory System..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia .. .. .	4	5	9	—	—	—	4	5	9
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	5	3	8	1	—	1	6	3	9
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System ..	1	1	2	1	—	1	2	1	3
Congenital Anomalies .. .. .	3	20	23	4	2	6	7	22	29
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc. ..	14	11	25	7	1	8	21	12	33
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality ..	9	9	18	3	1	4	12	10	22
All other Accidents .. .. .	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
All other External Causes .. .. .	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
	43	55	98	16	4	20	59	59	118



### Illegitimate Births

The total of 7,270 live and stillbirths included 418 which were illegitimate and of these three were still born. Illegitimate births are 5.8% of all births compared with 6.0% last year and 5.1% in 1966.

### Perinatal Mortality

The perinatal mortality rate is the sum of the early neo-natal deaths plus still births per thousand total births.

There were 68 early neo-natal deaths and 99 still births and the resultant perinatal mortality rate is 23.0 compared with 24.1 last year. This is the lowest figure recorded for the county.

The rates in Northumberland over the last five years, compared with the national rate were as follows :—

<i>Year</i>		<i>Northumberland</i>		<i>England &amp; Wales</i>
1964	..	28.5	..	28.2
1965	..	27.6	..	26.9
1966	..	28.1	..	26.3
1967	..	24.1	..	25.4
1968	..	23.1	..	25.0

### Care of Unmarried Mothers

The Newcastle Diocesan Council for Moral Welfare Work continued to arrange for expectant mothers in need of care to be admitted to the Diocesan Home at Elswick Lodge or to other suitable homes in the area and during the year 62 such cases were dealt with.

VITAL STATISTICS.  
Rates for Northumberland compared with England and Wales.

Year	Still Births		Neo Natal Mortality		Early Neo Natal Mortality		Perinatal Mortality		Infant Mortality		Maternal Mortality	
	County	E. & W.	County	E. & W.	County	E. & W.	County	E. & W.	County	E. & W.	County	E. & W.
1964	15.9	16.3	14.9	13.8	12.7	12.1	28.5	28.2	20.1	19.9	0.12	0.25
1965	16.9	15.8	12.0	13.0	10.9	11.3	27.6	26.9	16.0	19.0	0.24	0.25
1966	16.8	15.4	13.5	12.9	11.5	11.1	28.1	26.3	20.1	19.0	0.13	0.26
1967	13.9	14.8	12.5	12.5	10.4	10.8	24.1	25.4	17.6	18.3	0.00	0.20
1968	13.6	14.0	11.6	12.3	9.5	10.5	23.1	25.0	16.5	18.0	0.00	0.24

### Child Health Clinics

Child health clinics in the County remained popular and 31,643 children made a total of 133,331 attendances. 1,691 sessions were attended by medical staff of the department, 1,135 by general practitioners, and 1,781 by other doctors working in child health.

In the clinics the emphasis continues to be on the developmental examination of infants in order to find any defects as early as possible and institute remedial treatment.

95% of infants born during 1968 attended Child Health clinics for examination. A phenistix test for phenylketonuria is carried out at 10 days and six weeks, and Ortolani's test for dislocation of the hip is carried out on the first visit. Every child is given a screening test for hearing at 7 - 9 months.

Year.	No. of Clinics.	No. of half-day sessions held.	Total No. of children attending.	Total attendances.
1964	94	6,120	31,910	161,024
1965	92	6,079	32,219	155,321
1966	89	6,037	31,752	145,168
1967	89	5,922	31,928	140,915
1968	87	5,956	31,643	133,331

Year of Attendance	Number of children who attended :—		
	Born in years :—		
1967	1967	1966	1962/65
	6,967	7,267	16,065
1968	Born in Years :—		
	1968	1967	1963/66
	6,830	7,267	17,546

During the year a new clinic was opened at Newbiggin Hall Estate and provided a very welcome addition to the amenities of the estate. This brought the number of purpose built clinics to 29, and the total number of county owned clinic premises to 43, including 14 clinics held in specially adapted buildings.

### OBSERVATION REGISTER

The register of children born at risk of developing handicapping conditions has continued throughout the year. Information was received from the maternity hospitals of infants whose neonatal condition might place them in the 'at risk' category.

During 1968 the names of 564 children were included in the register.

## CONGENITAL ABNORMALITIES

The scheme which started in 1963 for the notification of congenital abnormalities observable at birth continued during the year.

The number of children notified during 1968 and details of the malformations are shown below.

<i>Year</i>		<i>No. of children notified with defects</i>				
1964	..	..	..	..	..	108
1965	..	..	..	..	..	125
1966	..	..	..	..	..	74
1967	..	..	..	..	..	87
1968	..	..	..	..	..	115

<i>Type of Malformation</i>							
Central Nervous System	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Eye, Ear	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Alimentary System	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Heart and great vessels	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Respiratory System	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Uro-genital system	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Limbs	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
Other skeletal	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Other systems	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Other malformations	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
							156

## CONSULTANT CLINICS

Ophthalmic and orthopaedic sessions for school children are held in clinic premises and pre-school children who are referred from child health clinics attend them by arrangement. The number of children under five referred to the orthopaedic consultants has not shown any increase in the past 5 years, but the number referred to the ophthalmic specialists has increased steadily, as the following figures show.

	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
<i>Ophthalmic—</i>					
No. of pre-school children examined ..	1,672	1,493	1,338	1,250	1,325
No. of spectacles prescribed .. ..	239	252	231	229	236
<i>Orthopaedic</i>					
No. of new cases who attended .. ..	963	908	856	788	949
Number of old cases who attended .. ..	1,131	1,110	988	1,031	1,107

Speech therapy is also given to pre-school children where necessary, by arrangement with the school health department. During the year 82 pre-school children were treated compared with 60 in 1967.



## DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS

Welfare foods were on sale at 90 distribution points and in addition a postal service was operated from the food store at Gosforth for outlying districts.

There was again a decrease in the amount of National Dried Milk sold, more mothers preferring to use commercial brands of food for their children.

Details for the last five years have been as follows :—

Year	National Dried Milk	Cod Liver Oil	Vitamin A. & D. Tablets	Orange Juice
	Tins	Bottles	Packets	Bottles
1964	85,922	10,554	10,645	128,632
1965	78,828	9,466	9,297	139,341
1966	60,943	9,441	8,861	155,087
1967	54,572	8,360	7,199	159,041
1968	42,051	7,459	7,052	147,425

## Ante-Natal Clinics

Ante-natal sessions in the county were all carried out by general practitioners, many of whom see these patients in local authority clinics, aided by the local midwife and health visitor. Ten health visitors and 12 midwives attended ante-natal clinics in practitioners' premises.

Year	No. of Expectant Mothers attending	Total No. of Attendances
1964	7,423	37,883
1965	7,265	36,973
1966	6,831	35,321
1967	6,628	33,231
1968	6,751	32,571

The following numbers of post-natal examinations were also carried out.

Year	Number of Mothers Attending
1964	2,777
1965	2,804
1966	3,112
1967	2,839
1968	2,773

Relaxation classes for expectant mothers were held in 29 clinics. 883 sessions were held by physiotherapists and the remainder by midwives and health visitors. 1,335 women attended, and they made 7,606 attendances as shown in the table on page 91.



## WOMEN'S ADVISORY CLINICS

The National Health Service (Family Planning) Act 1967 received Royal Assent on the 28th June and is now in operation. This Act confers upon local authorities a general power to make arrangements for giving advice on contraception, and for the supply, directly or by prescription, of contraceptive substances and appliances.

The Minister recommends that no charge is made for advice and examination of patients referred either on medical or social grounds, and that prescriptions and supplies should be free in medical cases. He approved the making of charges for drugs or appliances in non medical cases at the discretion of the authority.

The above Act is implemented in all the clinics run by the council. Examination and advice are free in all cases. In medical cases and where the patients are in financial need drugs and appliances are also provided free.

In addition the Family Planning Association held sessions in local authority clinics in Tweedmouth, Blyth, and Ashington. The Council make grants to the Association.

The work in county clinics continued to increase during the year and sessions were held in 15 clinics. A new women's advisory clinic was started at Seaton Sluice, and an evening session held there proved very useful. An evening session was also held at Chapel House Clinic and has proved very popular.

Attendances at these advisory clinics have increased fourfold in the past 5 years and the table shows they have more than doubled since 1966.

CLINIC	No. of Attendances			No. of Half Day Sessions		
	YEARS					
	1966	1967	1968	1966	1967	1968
Acklington .. ..	18	44	69	9	12	11
Alnwick .. ..	130	131	189	25	25	26
Bedlington .. ..	—	67	238	—	14	23
Chapel House .. ..	—	126	199	—	24	26
Fordley .. ..	—	141	296	—	25	26
Gosforth .. ..	92	137	172	22	24	24
Hexham .. ..	520	409	434	52	50	47
Longbenton .. ..	82	132	152	22	23	25
Monkseaton .. ..	286	451	636	40	48	44
Morpeth .. ..	—	5	86	—	3	22
Rothbury .. ..	1	41	14	4	26	24
*Seaton Sluice .. ..	—	—	105	—	—	21
Shiremoor .. ..	41	247	550	11	41	51
Wallsend .. ..	218	321	514	45	46	49
Widdrington .. ..	14	37	80	9	11	11
TOTALS .. ..	1,402	2,289	3,734	239	372	430

\* Seaton Sluice Clinic commenced to operate from February, 1968.

## CERVICAL SMEARS

During the year the provision of facilities for cervical smears for the early detection of carcinoma of the cervix was further extended. New sessions were commenced at Cramlington, Lemington and Newbiggin Hall Estate.

General practitioners used the local authority's clinics for taking smears and the following numbers were carried out with the aid of the local authority staff.

CLINIC	No. of Smears Taken	Date Commenced
Allendale .. ..	—	January 1967
Alnwick .. ..	120	March 1966
Amble .. ..	99	October 1964
Ashington .. ..	21	September 1965
Guide Post .. ..	104	April 1964
Bedlington Station	217	April 1964
*Bedlington .. ..	124	April 1964
*Blyth .. ..	314	December 1964
Brunton Park .. ..	3	March 1967
Chapel House .. ..	38	August 1966
Cramlington .. ..	109	January 1968
Fordley .. ..	36	June 1966
Forest Hall .. ..	15	June 1967
Gosforth .. ..	55	May 1965
Haltwhistle .. ..	89	March 1967
Hexham .. ..	64	March 1966
Lemington .. ..	12	March 1968
Longbenton .. ..	367	February 1965
Monkseaton .. ..	107	May 1965
Morpeth .. ..	251	January 1965
Newbiggin-by-the Sea .. ..	214	December 1966
Newbiggin Hall .. ..	16	August 1968
Ouston .. ..	—	August 1965
Ponteland .. ..	290	January 1966
Prudhoe .. ..	—	June 1965
Seghill .. ..	28	July 1966
South Broomhill .. ..	41	August 1964
Throckley .. ..	10	November 1964
Tweedmouth .. ..	130	January 1966
Wallsend .. ..	282	November 1964
Westerhope .. ..	16	January 1966
West Wylam .. ..	74	December 1967
Willington Quay .. ..	112	November 1964
Woodlands Park .. ..	114	April 1964
Wooler .. ..	96	July 1965
TOTAL .. ..	3,568	

\* General Practitioner's Surgery

Smears were also taken by medical officers of the local authority in the women's advisory clinics.

Clinic				No. of Smears taken
Acklington	..	..	..	71
Alnwick	..	..	..	140
*Ashington	..	..	..	75
Bedlington Station	..	..	..	86
Chapel House	..	..	..	177
Fordley	..	..	..	160
Gosforth	..	..	..	158
Hexham	..	..	..	308
Longbenton	..	..	..	137
Monkseaton	..	..	..	455
Morpeth	..	..	..	41
Rothbury	..	..	..	18
*Seaton Sluice	..	..	..	168
Shiremoor	..	..	..	228
Wallsend	..	..	..	311
Widdrington	..	..	..	58
TOTAL				2,591

\* Ashington Clinic commenced to operate from November, 1968.

\* Seaton Sluice Clinic commenced to operate from February, 1968.

There has been a fall in the number of smears carried out, showing that full advantage is still not being taken of this service.

Patients are now being called back for repeat smears after an interval of three years.

The following results were obtained from cervical smears taken in County Council Clinics :—

<i>Grade I</i>	<i>Grade II</i>	<i>Grade III</i>	<i>Grade IV</i>	<i>Grade V</i>
12.5%	86.4%	0.8%	0.2%	0.2%

Grade III smears were repeated to ascertain more accurately the type of cells found. Patients showing Grade IV and Grade V smears were referred to hospital for further investigation and treatment.



## DENTAL SERVICE

(Mr. A. E. ROBINSON, F.D.S., R.C.S.)

Dental inspection and treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five years of age was again carried out by the School Dental Officers during the period under review.

The majority of these patients in the County who required dental treatment were given appointments to attend at the under-mentioned clinics.

In some country districts, however, where bus services are infrequent or have been withdrawn altogether advantage is taken of the visits of the mobile dental trailers to nearby schools where mothers and parents are glad of this additional opportunity to receive treatment.

1.	Alnwick..	..	Miss S. M. Crute, B.D.S.
2.	Amble ..	..	Mr. C. A. Nutt, L.D.S.
3.	Ashington ..	..	Mr. R. S. Ferrell, L.D.S.
4.	Bedlington ..	..	Mr. T. D. Harrison, B.D.S.
5.	Blyth ..	..	Mr. E. G. Stuart, B.D.S.
6.	Cowpen ..	..	Mr. H. J. Coombes, L.D.S.
7.	Cramlington ..	..	Mr. T. M. Mahadervan, L.D.S.
8.	Dudley ..	..	Mr. W. Robson, L.D.S.
9.	Forest Hall ..	..	Mr. G. C. J. Long, B.D.S.
10.	Glendale ..	..	Mr. R. W. Whittingham, B.D.S.
11.	Gosforth ..	..	Miss M. I. Lamb, L.D.S.
12.	Guide Post ..	..	Mr. C. I. Cousins, B.D.S.
13.	Haltwhistle ..	..	Mr. I. W. Atchison, B.D.S.
14.	Hexham ..	..	Miss H. C. Gent, B.D.S.
15.	Longbenton ..	..	Mrs. P. Nicholson, L.D.S.
16.	Low Willington ..	..	Miss O. I. Wears, B.D.S.
17.	Morpeth ..	..	Mr. S. J. Smithson, L.D.S.
18.	Newbiggin-by-the-Sea	..	Mr. C. L. Carmichael, B.D.S.
19.	Newbiggin Hall ..	..	Miss H. C. Gent, B.D.S.
			Mr. J. D. Lamb, B.D.S.
20.	Newburn ..	..	Mr. J. W. K. Lumley, L.D.S.
21.	North Tyne ..	..	Mr. T. A. Ireland, L.D.S.
22.	Ponteland ..	..	Mr. G. C. J. Long, B.D.S.
23.	Prudhoe ..	..	Mrs. S. E. Williams, L.D.S.
24.	Rothbury ..	..	Mr. S. J. Smithson, L.D.S.
25.	Seaton Delaval ..	..	Mr. A. E. Robinson, F.D.S., R.C.S.
26.	Shiremoor ..	..	Mrs. W. S. Drury, L.D.S.
27.	Throckley ..	..	Mr. J. D. Lamb, B.D.S.
28.	Tweedmouth ..	..	Mr. M. S. Baglee, B.D.S.
29.	Wallsend ..	..	Mr. J. F. Horseman, L.D.S.
30.	Whitley Bay ..	..	Mrs. W. S. Drury, L.D.S.
31.	Woodlands Park ..	..	Mr. W. Robson, L.D.S.

A total of 800 sessions was devoted to this work, this being 149 sessions less than in 1967. This fall was due to the fact that the service was two dental officers short for the greater part of the year.

The overall picture of treatment was again very similar to that of recent years. The output of work provided for pre-school children showed a slight increase, which was encouraging considering the reduction in the number of sessions worked.



The number of mothers who attended the clinics for treatment again showed a slight fall and this follows the trend over the last few years.

The practice of encouraging children to attend for dental examination after their second birthday is being pursued and this is probably reflected by the fact that 46.5% of all pre-school children examined during the year were dentally fit, compared with 42% in 1967.

Talks were also given in some areas by the Dental Officers to Young Mothers' Clubs and this is proving to be of great value in the field of Dental Health Education. These were well attended meetings and members of the audience asked many leading questions and showed a great interest in both their own teeth and those of their families.

Fluoride was introduced into the water supplies treated by the purification plants at Whittle Dene and Throckley on the 7th October.

The areas concerned are Newburn, parts of Prudhoe, Gosforth, Longbenton, Castle Ward, Seaton Valley and Stocksfield. One looks forward to great improvements in the rate of caries incidence in these areas in the next five years.

A new dental clinic was opened in the early part of the year in Newbiggin Hall. This is a very modern clinic with the latest type of dental equipment which is greatly appreciated by all who use it.

The following tables show a comparison of dental treatment carried out during the last nine years :—

#### DENTAL TREATMENT

##### *Expectant and Nursing Mothers*

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Number									
Treated ..	950	1257	854	923	836	807	830	577	486
Extractions	3499	3644	2780	1943	1565	1440	1271	792	960
Fillings ..	1730	1558	1690	1962	2132	1553	1367	1263	1131
Dentures ..	1001	906	717	666	568	461	399	311	265
General									
Anaesthetics	320	306	247	149	145	119	98	80	97

#### DENTAL TREATMENT

##### *Pre-School Children*

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Number									
Treated ..	1288	1636	1677	1739	2208	1936	2187	1893	1714
Extractions	1886	2267	2408	2545	2378	2069	2127	2202	2265
Fillings ..	836	878	942	1144	1410	1372	2010	2293	2296
General									
Anaesthetics	579	708	709	726	697	628	637	678	649

## COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE

During 1968 the recruitment of field staff continued to be successful and with few exceptions vacancies were filled within a reasonable period. In the district nursing and midwifery service three members of staff retired and seven resigned. Eleven full time appointments were made including two State Enrolled nurses. The establishment of five bath attendants now includes two men working in a full time capacity and eight women working on a part-time basis. In the health visiting service, three members of staff retired and four resigned. Twelve health visitors were appointed, including four newly qualified under the Council's Grant Aided Scheme. No difficulty was experienced in the recruitment of students and eight commenced training during the year. On the retirement of the senior health visitor in Whitley Bay, the first appointment of a Group Adviser was made. Three additional field-work instructors were appointed bringing the total complement to five.

During the last few years there has been a noticeable increase in the turnover of staff in the health visiting service. This has been mainly caused by the large number of retirements and the appointment of younger married health visitors several of whom subsequently left the County Service on account of pregnancy or removal from the area due to the husband's change of employment. This is a trend which will clearly continue and as the core of mature, experienced health visitors diminishes, there will be an increasing need for a greater measure of support and education of field staff if a high standard of service is to be maintained.

### ATTACHMENT SCHEMES WITH FAMILY DOCTOR PRACTICES

A further 12 attachment schemes were initiated during the year involving 12 health visitors and 15 district nurses. 60 out of 105 health visitors and 62 out of 127 district nurses and district nurse midwives are now participating in such schemes. Whilst it has not yet been possible to undertake a detailed follow-up of the individual schemes, there is every indication that the majority of the staff consider this method has given a greater degree of job satisfaction and an improved service for families and patients.

At the end of the year, members of the district nursing staff completed questionnaires relating to their work in family doctor attachment schemes and the following is an analysis of the information given and the views expressed.

50.8% felt that the scheme had proved invaluable

42.6%           do.                   do.           do.           helpful

1.6%           do.                   do.           do.           of no value

5.0% felt unable to comment because of short period on attachment duties — less than one month.



52.4% felt that with further training they could carry out a wider range of duties in the practice.

60.3% felt that they could be of greater value to the practice if they had more time

93.7% felt that some hospital care could be transferred to general practice

66.7% of the nurses hold regular surgery sessions varying from 1-6 per week, the number of patients seen weekly varying from 4-90

57.2% of the nurses have treatment rooms for their exclusive use

80% undertake home visiting on behalf of the doctors.

The following table gives an indication of the growth which has taken place in the district nursing service since the initiation of the first attachment schemes in 1965.

	<i>New cases</i>	<i>Total visits</i>	<i>Advisory visits</i>	<i>Surgery sessions attended</i>	<i>Patients treated</i>	<i>Total treatments given</i>
1964	10,201	265,526	10,685	—	—	—
1965	10,782	272,389	10,680	—	—	—
1966	11,164	282,587	11,944	1,842	3,902	12,561
1967	11,990	294,246	13,422	3,434	10,350	20,154
1968	14,304	318,665	14,939	4,813	19,913	29,276

In the health visiting service the change-over to this new method of working has presented rather more difficulties than has been the case with district nursing. In some of the schemes considerable developments have taken place and the value of the health visitors' contribution to the work of the practice has been amply demonstrated, whilst in others developments have been minimal. From the experience gained it is clear that the attachment of staff to family doctor practices opens up a wide field of health visiting work, both in health education and the early detection and containment of medico-social problems, but the extent to which the health visitors potential contribution is exploited and developed is dependent upon the interest and enthusiasm of the various members of the practice team.

In many of the practices, all problems relating to the care and management of young children are now automatically referred by the doctors to the health visitor and she is increasingly involved in work with the elderly, the chronic sick, handicapped persons and those with emotional or mental health problems. In a few practices, staff are participating in research projects and practice health education programmes.



## STATISTICS RELATING TO HEALTH VISITORS' WORK

*Details of Cases Visited :—*

	1965	1966	1967	1968
1. First visits only during the year to :—				
(a) 0 — 1 year .. ..	8297	7732	7545	7195
(b) 1 — 2 years .. ..	9589	9298	7377	7113
(c) 2 — 5 years .. ..	22519	21560	23741	19451
TOTAL .. ..	<u>40405</u>	<u>38590</u>	<u>38663</u>	<u>33759</u>
2. (a) Persons aged 65 or over ..	6207	7052	6927	4937
(b) No. in 2 (a) visited at request of G.P. or hospital ..	1011	1908	2698	2512
3. (a) Mentally disordered persons.	394	501	561	441
(b) No. in 3 (a) visited at request of G.P. or hospital ..	115	173	297	250
4. (a) Persons discharged from hospital (other than mental hospitals) .. ..	388	419	619	594
(b) No. included in 4 (a) visited at request of G.P. or hospital .. ..	177	199	279	389
5. Tuberculosis households ..	1077	868	503	322
6. Households visited on account of other infectious diseases .. ..	236	98	163	189

## LIAISON WITH HOSPITALS

During the year a scheme was initiated with the Wansbeck Hospital Management Committee for County district midwives to undertake delivery of their own booked cases in the General Practitioner Unit at the Ashington Maternity Hospital. The scheme was limited to the Ashington, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Bedlingtonshire and Morpeth areas and related to cases booked for early discharge when the midwife concerned would be responsible for the follow-up care of the mother and baby on their return home. Whilst agreement was reached for 8 midwives to participate in this scheme, during the 6 months of its operation, only 3 such cases were undertaken. A number of others were delivered by hospital staff as the district midwife concerned was either off duty or involved with another case.

Whilst no other special schemes for the promotion of liaison with hospitals were initiated during the year, there was evidence of a greater awareness amongst hospital staff of the community nursing services and this was shown by increased personal contact between them.

## IN-SERVICE EDUCATION AND POST CERTIFICATE COURSES

During the year 11 midwives and 15 health visitors attended residential refresher courses and 3 health visitors attended local non-resident courses especially arranged for fieldwork instructors. The usual programme of staff conferences was held, one of these being a joint meeting of midwives, health visitors and district nurses. In addition, area meetings were held in order that local problems and current developments could be discussed in smaller groups. The programme of in-service education included the following :—

1. The commencement of a comprehensive programme of study on ' Mental Illness ' arranged with St. George's Hospital, Morpeth, to be attended by all members of the health visiting staff over a period of 2-3 years. The programme comprises a full-time five day course at the hospital including clinical teaching in the wards and departments and a series of 20 lectures to be given by members of the hospital consultant staff.
2. Two study days at St. George's Hospital, Morpeth, arranged especially for members of the district nursing and health visiting staff. The programme for the former included case demonstrations and formal lectures and for the latter, the presentation of case studies by selected health visitors followed by group discussion with consultant psychiatrists.
3. ' A Seminar in Health Education ' conducted by members of the staff of the newly formed Health Education Council. This was attended by 48 health visitors including 18 from neighbouring authorities. The programme was designed to familiarise staff with the latest techniques in health education including the use of closed circuit television.
4. Three further groups of health visitors and health visitor assistants attended training sessions on screening methods in the detection of deafness conducted by Mr. R. G. Chaytor, Otologist at the Audiology Unit, the Fleming Memorial Hospital.
5. Groups of district nurses and health visitors from the north of the County attended study sessions on ' The Care of the Elderly ' and ' The Use and Abuse of Drugs.' These sessions which were held in Berwick upon Tweed were organised by the Royal College of Nursing for nurses working in the hospital and community services.

Several district nurse-midwives undertook practical training with the Family Planning Association in the teaching of contraceptive techniques and the staff of Ward 34, Newcastle General Hospital again trained several of the district nursing staff in the taking of intravenous blood specimens.

We are grateful to all those people involved in organising these programmes of education and training. The knowledge and understanding gained is of great value to the staff concerned in their work in the County.



## STUDENT EDUCATION AND VISITORS TO THE COUNTY

As in previous years, student nurses from the Royal Victoria Infirmary, the Newcastle General Hospital and Hexham General Hospital came to the County for a programme of visits with district nurses, health visitors and to child health clinics planned in accordance with the General Nursing Council's syllabus of training. Visits were also arranged for student nurses from St. George's Hospital and Northgate and District Hospital, Morpeth. A total of 250 such visits were arranged and in addition, lectures on the social aspects of disease were given to students at these hospitals by the nursing officers.

Four student health visitors from the Municipal College of Commerce, Newcastle upon Tyne, undertook the whole of their practical training with designated fieldwork instructors in the County. In addition, arrangements were made for all the health visitor students at the College and six first year students undertaking the Diploma Course in Hospital and Community Nursing to spend one week observing the work of health visitors in rural areas. A week's programme was also arranged for two students from the University of Surrey and from the Medway and Maidstone College of Technology.

Other visitors to the County included a group of 30 midwives undertaking a refresher course in Newcastle upon Tyne for whom a two-day programme was arranged ; 7 students undertaking the Certificate Course in Social Work ; medical students ; and medical and nursing visitors from various parts of the world.

## MIDWIFERY

The following table relating to the work of domiciliary midwives shows that the trend for fewer mothers to be confined at home was further accelerated as was the trend for early discharge from hospital.

	<i>Total live and stillbirths</i>	<i>Home Confinements</i>	<i>Number discharged on or before 48 hours</i>
1964	8,441	1,469	—
1965	8,117	1,144	1,073
1966	7,690	929	828
1967	7,545	707	997
1968	7,270	422	1,145

The following table shows the number of home deliveries undertaken during the year by the staff concerned.

<i>Number of cases</i>	<i>Full-time midwives</i>	<i>District Nurse-midwives</i>
0—5	—	43
6—10	1	8
11—20	11	2
21—25	4	—



In several areas, as vacancies have occurred district midwives have not been replaced and district nurse-midwives have been replaced by district nurses. Staff possessing the midwifery qualification are now responsible for bigger geographical areas and greater use is being made of district nurses for the follow-up care of later hospital discharges. In addition to the large amount of work involved with hospital discharges, the midwives continued to participate fully in the field of ante-natal care including health education programmes and were increasingly involved with the family planning and cervical cytology services.

#### DISTRICT NURSING

Six district nurses completed the District Nurse Training Course at the Municipal College of Commerce, Newcastle upon Tyne and all were successful in gaining the National Certificate in District Nursing. 39 members of the district nursing staff now hold this qualification. Comment has already been made on the growth of the work of the district nurses since the initiation of family doctor attachment schemes. Of particular interest is the development of the work undertaken in doctors' surgeries. A growing number of the nurses now have excellent facilities in surgeries for carrying out investigations and treatments and for holding consulting sessions and many patients previously visited at home are now seen at the surgery. In addition, there has been an increase in the number of follow-up home visits paid by district nurses on behalf of family doctors.

The increased volume of work has necessitated the appointment of additional full and part-time staff in a number of areas. The appointment of State Enrolled Nurses and bath attendants to work with groups of State Registered Nurses has proved an undoubted success and there is every indication that the nature of the work undertaken in this service will justify the appointment of a higher proportion of these grades of staff in the future.

The Marie Curie Memorial 'Day and Night Nursing Service' for cancer patients continued to function and provided night nursing for 33 patients. In addition many patients received assistance through the Area Welfare Group Scheme of the Foundation. A number of donations were received in connection with this service including one of £200 raised by district nurses and family doctors in the Whitley Bay area.

#### HEALTH VISITING

Whilst the majority of health visitors in the County carry comparatively low case loads of 300-400 pre-school children, the growth in other aspects of their work has continued. This is particularly the case with those working in attachment schemes where the volume of work referred by the family doctors has resulted in

pressure on the staff. Prior to the initiation of attachment schemes, a high proportion of the health visitors' work related to the Maternity and Child Health service and the continuing shift in emphasis to include a higher proportion of work with other age groups has called for a constant re-appraisal of priorities and an increased use of health visitor assistants in some clinic and school work.

During the year there was a further increase in health education activities undertaken by health visitors. In addition to the educational work carried out in ante-natal clinics and mothers clubs, 107 parentcraft courses were given in schools involving 1,444 pupils, 691 of these took the examination and 627 gained certificates. 160 other lectures or talks on a variety of health topics were given in schools and 160 talks to clubs and organisations.

In the School Health Service, in addition to help with medical examinations, hygiene surveys and health education, approximately 1650 children were referred for the follow-up of health or behaviour problems. Play groups, of which there are now 24 continue to be popular and to fill a very real need. Two of them have been held primarily for the benefit of handicapped children and in all of the classes priority is given to children with special needs. The increase in the number of daily minders of which there are now 52 has also added to the work of the health visitors who undertake routine visiting for the purpose of supervision and the giving of advice to those responsible for the children's care.

### NURSERIES AND CHILD MINDERS REGULATIONS ACT, 1948

Under the Health Services and Public Health Act, 1968, Section 60 The Nurseries and Child Minders Regulations Act, 1948 has been extended to include premises (other than those used wholly or mainly as private dwellings) in which children are received for a total of two hours or more in the day, and persons who, in their own homes and for reward look after one or more children under the age of 5, to whom they are not related, for similar periods. This section came into operation on the 1st November, 1968. New registrations during the year, under the Act showed great expansion. 25 new nursery premises were approved to accommodate 521 children, and 27 daily minders with places for 178 children. This is a much greater increase than in previous years and reflects the national interest in the play group movement. The position at the end of the year is shewn in the following figures.

	<i>Day Nurseries</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Daily Minders</i>	<i>Children</i>
1964	8	197	30	343
1965	9	209	40	438
1966	18	368	44	376
1967	22	429	47	362
1968	37	757	52	460



Most of the registrations in the County relate to the type of activity now called a ' Play Group ', only a few of the registrations can be strictly defined as child minding or day nurseries.

Each application for registration is thoroughly investigated. A comprehensive inspection of the accommodation and facilities is carried out, and the applicant is interviewed. The advice of the fire officers is sought concerning fire prevention and the applicants are also advised to have an x-ray examination of the chest at 3 yearly intervals as recommended by the Department of Health.

In the case of a nursery, planning consent is required for ' Change of Use ' and in order to preserve residential amenities.

Both day nurseries and daily minders are inspected at three monthly intervals, and reports are received of the conditions under which children are cared for.

Play groups are also held in 24 clinics under the supervision of the health visitors assisted by voluntary workers.

A nursery nurse is employed for 5 sessions weekly to run play groups in areas where it has not been possible to find suitable voluntary workers.

### **NURSING HOMES**

The Hexham Home closed its nursing beds in September but remained open as an Old People's Home. The one remaining home, open to the public, is in Gosforth but it has been found that most of its patients are chronically ill.

The Cheshire Home at Matfen Hall continued to look after 25 physically handicapped persons and made plans for an extension of its accommodation on to the first floor of the Hall.

Regular visits were paid to these three homes during the year and a satisfactory standard of nursing was maintained.



## VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation set up by the Department of Health a revised programme of immunisation and vaccination procedures was recommended to general practitioners in the County. This may now be summarised as follows :—

Four months	Triple antigen and oral poliomyelitis
Six months	do. do.
Twelve months	do. do.
During second year	Measles and Smallpox vaccination
4 — 5 years	Diphtheria : tetanus and oral poliomyelitis
10 — 12 years	B.C.G. vaccination
on leaving school	Tetanus and Oral poliomyelitis

### TRIPLE ANTIGEN IMMUNISATION

This gives protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. The figures in Table 16 show reduced numbers in all diseases due to the change in the commencing age from three months to four months. It will be seen that of all babies in their first year of life only 681 completed a primary course of diphtheria antigen before the end of the year compared with 2,634 last year. It is expected that next year's figures will show that these 1968 babies have been completely immunised.

### POLIOMYELITIS

The oral method of giving the vaccine on a lump of sugar has continued. 5,167 children, under 16 years, received a primary course of vaccine and 11,869 received reinforcing doses. Once again, very few babies born in 1968 completed a primary course because of the changes in the schedule.

### SMALLPOX

The total number vaccinated in each area, together with the figures for 1967 is shown in the following table :—

SUB-COMMITTEE  AREA	Age at date of Vaccination															
	Number Vaccinated during 1968								Number Re-Vaccinated during 1968							
	0 - 3 months	3 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	1 year	2 - 4 years	5 - 15 years	TOTAL	0 - 3 months	3 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	1 year	2 - 4 years	5 - 15 years	TOTAL
North No. 1	16	4	1	1	209	40	5	276	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
North No. 2	11	11	3	9	164	52	22	272	—	—	—	—	1	2	15	18
Central ...	2	3	3	10	228	105	41	392	—	—	—	—	—	6	21	27
East... ..	2	—	1	—	83	187	32	305	—	—	—	—	—	3	10	13
South ...	13	21	3	8	474	185	36	740	—	—	—	—	—	18	63	81
South East...	2	13	2	7	296	231	47	598	—	—	—	—	2	8	37	47
West ...	4	7	4	12	149	53	15	244	—	—	—	—	1	4	16	21
Wallsend ...	—	2	3	26	236	42	11	320	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	8
Totals	50	61	20	73	1839	895	209	3147	—	—	—	—	4	43	169	216
1967 Totals...	90	108	63	105	1783	804	218	3171	—	—	—	—	4	61	237	302

The number vaccinated between first and second birthdays again increased and the total vaccinated compared with last year.

#### MEASLES

In April, the Ministry of Health made available live attenuated measles vaccine for susceptible children up to the age of 15 years. Arrangements were completed to offer vaccination to susceptible children between 4 and 7 years of age in the first instance and although supplies of the vaccine were very limited, throughout the year 8,722 children were protected.

Details are given in the following table :—

SUB-COMMITTEE AREA	CHILDREN BORN IN YEARS :						
	1968	1967	1966	1965	1961/64	Others Under 16 Years	TOTAL
North No. 1 ..	4	60	70	53	280	49	516
North No. 2 ..	4	72	39	60	160	133	468
Central ..	6	100	120	100	728	42	1096
East ..	1	153	195	217	665	34	1265
South ..	10	263	288	241	1060	43	1905
South East ..	21	160	240	274	1223	76	1994
West ..	—	46	59	93	395	25	618
Wallsend ..	4	132	147	117	435	25	860
TOTALS ..	50	986	1158	1155	4946	427	8722

## AMBULANCE SERVICE

As in previous years, the work of the service increased. However, the only significant increase in patients occurred in one station's area and provision in next year's estimates has been made to provide extra staff.

	1966	1967	1968
Journeys .. ..	54,527	55,320	55,928
Patients .. ..	218,599	226,654	236,270
Mileage .. ..	1,648,417	1,729,913	1,753,468
Miles per patient ratio ..	7.5	7.6	7.4

It is satisfactory to note that the miles per patient ratio has been reduced to 7.4 from 7.5 in 5 years : this is an indication of efficient use of the ambulance fleet.

Vehicles were replaced during the year by five small dual purpose vehicles and two large type ambulances, all with improved ambulance suspension.

During the year, a member of the ambulance workshops' staff left to take up other employment and great difficulty was experienced in finding a suitable replacement.

In-service training continued with courses which were also attended by members of staff from neighbouring authorities. Four members of the staff attended the West Riding County Council Ambulance Training School on six weeks' courses, and one member attended an ambulance instructor's course at Easingwold.

Teams from Berwick, Throckley and Whitley Bay Stations took part in the County Council Ambulance Competition. The team from Whitley Bay Station was successful and went forward to the regional competition where it was placed fourth.

In the National Safe Driving Competition, the following 99 driving awards, out of a total of 136 staff entered, were gained by personnel :—

Star Bar to 20 year Brooch .. ..	1
20 Year Brooch .. ..	1
Special Bar to 15 Year Brooch .. ..	2
15 Year Consecutive Brooch .. ..	3
Oak Leaf Bar .. ..	17
10 Year Medal .. ..	6
Bar to 5 year Medal .. ..	20
5 Year Medal .. ..	1
Diplomas .. ..	48



## PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

The number of notifications of tuberculosis was 108 which is easily the lowest yet recorded in the county. The number of cases notified of the Pulmonary form of the disease was less than 100 for the first time, and the number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was six which is less than half the previous lowest figure. The total number of deaths was eleven, which may be compared with 219 twenty years ago, and over 400 thirty years ago. Tuberculosis has ceased to be a major cause of morbidity and mortality though preventive measures must be continued.

### Chest Clinic Services

The Regional Hospital Board provides special clinics throughout the county. Chest Physicians in these clinics spend much of their time on the investigation of contacts and the tuberculin testing and B.C.G. vaccinating of child contacts. Vaccination of school children and students is carried out by the school medical officers and the work done, under this scheme is shown below :—

A. CONTACT SCHEME (CIRCULAR 19/64)						
(i)	No. skin tested	..	..	..	..	579
(ii)	No. found positive..	..	..	..	..	47
(iii)	No. found negative	..	..	..	..	513
(iv)	No. vaccinated	..	..	..	..	751
B. SCHOOL CHILDREN AND STUDENTS (CIRCULAR 19/64)						
(i)	No. skin tested	..	..	..	..	6,155
(ii)	No. found positive..	..	..	..	..	359
(iii)	No. found negative..	..	..	..	..	5,621
(iv)	No. vaccinated	..	..	..	..	5,599
TOTAL vaccinated with B.C.G. in 1968		..	..	..	..	6,350
TOTAL number of persons vaccinated since beginning of scheme		..	..	..	..	78,000

### Mass Miniature Radiography

The Newcastle Regional Hospital Board provides a regional mass x-ray unit. Since last year the unit caravan from North Shields has become operative from the Newcastle General Hospital and I am obliged to the Medical Adviser for the following figures on the work carried out in Northumberland during the year.

The Units carried out public sessions at 10 locations and x-rayed 5,809 persons. In addition they visited 27 industrial firms and examined 9,017 persons.

Out of this total of 14,826 examinations, 178 were referred to the chest clinic and 9 diagnosed as suffering from tuberculosis. Five persons were also found to have a neoplasm.

### Prevention of Venereal Diseases

#### CONTACT TRACING

The total number of contacts sought within the area was 37, 5 of whom were males. 23 were identified by contact tracers and 14

by patients themselves. 32 people were involved (some named more than once).

Out of 24 patients examined, the results were as follows :—

			<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>
Syphilis	..	..	—	—
Gonorrhoea	..	..	19	—
Non-venereal	..	..	4	1
			—	—
			23	1
			—	—

6 patients were examined elsewhere, one failed to attend and one refused.

As well as visits to contacts, health visitors paid 39 visits to other patients, mainly defaulters from treatment and 8 patients were escorted to the clinic in an effort to promote regular attendance.

#### ANTE-NATAL SEROLOGICAL TESTS

There were 3,107 serological specimens submitted from the department's clinics for examination during the year.

Five cases of maternal syphilis were treated prior to delivery and three babies were subsequently tested and found to be free from infection. At the end of the year two had not been born.

#### Chiropody Service

In 1959, the Minister of Health informed local health authorities that he would be prepared to approve proposals to establish a chiropody service as part of their arrangements for the prevention of illness under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

The Council then agreed to provide directly or through voluntary organisations, a chiropody service that would be available initially for (a) the elderly, (b) the physically handicapped, and (c) expectant mothers, but which could be developed if necessary, to meet the needs of other classes of persons and of those members of the community who were unable to make their own arrangements.

At that time chiropodists were already visiting County Welfare Homes and a considerable number of voluntary committees were providing services for the elderly. It was agreed that these committees should be helped financially, subject to their schemes being approved by the Council. During 1968, 24 voluntary bodies were assisted in this way, so providing facilities for the treatment of 3,347 persons. This is a very valuable contribution to the service and it is unfortunate that some committees are now finding it difficult to continue, and in a few cases have asked the Council to take over their work.



In considering the development and staffing of the Council's service, it was determined that facilities should be made available equally throughout the administrative County and that treatments would be arranged on recommendations received from medical practitioners or public health nursing staffs. While it was hoped that an extensive clinic service could be organised, experience proved that population distribution and infrequent transport services in rural areas made it necessary for a high proportion of patients to be treated in their homes.

The first full-time County Chiropodist was appointed in September, 1960. By 1968, establishment had been increased to eight and, at the end of the year, six of these posts were filled. To meet the two vacancies, arrangements were made for the employment of private chiropodists able to accept sessional work. Even with full establishment, it has not been possible to give treatments as frequently as may be desired but unfortunately additional staff are not available in the North and West of the County.

Full details of the numbers of patients treated and of the treatments given are set out in Table 12 on page 90.

### **Health Education**

The programming of health education within the county continued on similar lines to previous years. The activities covered a wide range of topics and as a result no special attention was given to any one subject.

Many requests were received from schools and clinics while organisations outside the scope of the county council showed an increased interest. The demand in schools and clinics was met by the School Medical Officers, School Dental Officers and health visitors. The lectures given in the evening to mothers' clubs, women's institutes etc. were undertaken by district nurses, health visitors, the County public Health Inspector and the County Ambulance Officer.

To assist all who are concerned and interested in health education a visual aids handbook was produced and distributed to members of the medical staff. The purpose of this handbook was to keep the staff fully informed of all the visual aids available and to encourage their use.

Two exhibitions were staged during the year, the first was concerned with services provided by the local health authority and spotlighted the work and functions of the dental service, ambulance service, clinic services and the care of handicapped persons. The second, a Home Safety Exhibition held for one week during November highlighted the dangers of poisoning, accidents and the danger to young children from the unguarded fire and unsafe nightwear. The response to the exhibition by adults was disappointing, but a large number of children in organised parties did attend.



The amount of time devoted to formal health education in schools has shown an encouraging increase. The courses of mothercraft have been dealt with in the health visiting section of my report. The other activities included programmes on smoking and health, hygiene and grooming, accident prevention, sex education and human behaviour. For the younger girl a great deal of time was devoted to their understanding of menstruation.

In addition the staff have taken every opportunity to advise both parent and child on personal hygiene, proper feeding, and the hazards of smoking and promiscuity.

The dental officers continued to visit the schools to give talks and show films on the care of the teeth.

Greater use has been made of visual aids, each clinic has teaching charts, a 35 mm. film strip projector and a number of film strips which have been in constant use. A film strips library is held at a central point and distributed to the clinics regularly during the year.

The sound film units have been in constant use, and material not owned by the department has been hired from the various film libraries. Some indication of the popularity of this type of visual aid can be seen from the following table.

GROUP	No. of Screenings				Audience				TOTALS	
	Clinic	School	Mothers' Club	Others	Clinic	School	Mothers' Club	Others	Screenings	Audience
Ante-natal ..	153	9	3	1	1 478	257	89	90	166	1,914
Mothercraft ..	61	45	1	—	676	761	48	—	107	1,485
Child Development ..	24	29	7	6	221	669	167	120	66	1,177
Smoking and Health ..	—	8	10	7	—	246	272	223	25	741
Sex Education ..	—	45	9	4	—	1,864	187	212	58	2,263
Accident Prevention ..	—	26	13	19	—	703	320	368	58	1,391
Hygiene ..	—	11	9	4	—	960	278	111	24	1,349
Mental Health ..	—	—	2	2	—	—	35	40	4	75
Women's Advisory ..	—	—	3	4	—	—	71	111	7	182
	238	173	57	47	2,375	5 460	1,467	1,275	515	10,577

In each clinic provision has been made for a display cabinet and poster display area. Supplies of leaflets and posters were regularly distributed to support the main clinic displays.

The search for new ideas and additional film material continued and some of the films previewed during the year have been used regularly.

### **HOME HELP SERVICE**

The table on page 98 shows that this service has helped more families than ever before and on the last day of the year this had reached a total of 4,764.

The number of households visited by a home help increased slightly in all areas except Central and South-East. The service is dependent on the continuous and reliable services of 1,092 women who have given part-time assistance to 4,764 families throughout the year. This means that many are visiting four families at any one time. The service was used by 4,269 old people or those who were chronically ill and has been a great help in keeping these families independent in their own homes and in relieving the over taxed county homes for old people.

The administration of the service was carried out from the Area Health Offices and supervision of patients and home helps by four home help organisers who, between them, bear a heavy load of visits.



## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

### ADMINISTRATION

An additional mental welfare officer was appointed during the year and the staff of the service thus consisted of eleven mental welfare officers and a welfare assistant. The officers work from six district offices and, in addition to their work under the Mental Health Act, 1959, they also have social welfare duties under the National Assistance Act, 1948. The service is supervised by a Senior Mental Welfare Officer.

The training centres staff consisted of seven supervisors who are qualified, five qualified assistants, nine unqualified assistants, two trainee assistants and five nursery assistants.

The staff of the two industrial units consisted of a manager, an assistant manager, and senior craft instructor all of whom are qualified, with in addition one senior instructor and nine instructors who are unqualified.

### TRAINING OF STAFF

The number of qualified staff in social work and training centres is gradually increasing.

Two mental welfare officers after attending a full time two years course obtained the Certificate in Social Work of the Central Council for the Training of Social Workers, and another commenced the second year of the course.

Two assistant supervisors completed full time courses for Teachers of the Mentally Handicapped, and were awarded the Training Council's Diploma.

Two craft instructors and two assistant supervisors were seconded to full time training courses.

A week's refresher course for staff in junior training centres and adult units organised by the National Association for Mental Health was held in Manchester and six members of the staff attended.

### CO-ORDINATION WITH HOSPITAL AUTHORITIES

There continued to be close co-operation between mental health staff and the Medical and Social Workers staff of the hospitals in the County in the care and after-care services throughout the year.

The arrangements made by Dr. D. Irwin, Physician Superintendent at St. George's Hospital, Morpeth, for regular monthly case demonstrations presented by consultant psychiatrists continued, and these were followed by informal discussions between consultants and mental welfare officers. The mental welfare

officers also attended Out-Patient Clinics, Group Therapy meetings and Case Conferences at St. George's Hospital, and these greatly assisted in the continuity of patients' after-care.

During the year, Dr. I. A. Fraser, Physician Superintendent at Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital arranged two meetings monthly for mental health staff ; one was a meeting for social work discussion and the other for case presentation or films relating to mental subnormality.

Two consultant psychiatrists held Out-Patient Clinics for subnormals in county establishments and another held general psychiatric sessions in the clinic at Whitley Bay.

Student nurses in their final year of training at St. George's Hospital and Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital accompanied some of the mental welfare officers on selected home visits to patients in order to observe work in the community.

#### WORK UNDERTAKEN IN THE COMMUNITY

The volume of work undertaken by the mental health staff continued to grow. The increase over the last five years is shown in the following figures and the graph on page 50 covers the ten year period :—

	<i>Visits to Mentally Ill</i>	<i>Total Visits</i>
1964	3,659	9,226
1965	3,986	9,915
1966	4,751	10,808
1967	4,948	11,274
1968	5,951	14,076

The total number of mentally disordered persons receiving community care at the end of the year was 1,227, which shows an increase of 162 on the figures of 1967. The new referrals during the year were made up of 777 mentally ill, 28 psychopaths and 81 who were mentally subnormal.

The statutory admissions into mental hospitals by mental welfare officers totalled 255. Of these 58 patients were admitted under Section 26, and 197 under Section 25 and 29 of the Mental Health Act, 1959. Eighty-eight remained as informal patients on the expiration of their period of observation. During the year 1,312 persons were admitted informally into hospitals.

There were 32 mentally subnormal patients admitted informally into hospitals and 13 under Sections of the Mental Health Act and 3 under the Childrens and Young Persons Act.

Arrangements were made for 50 mentally subnormal children to be provided with short-term care in hospital so that their parents could have a holiday or have respite from continual care of the patient.



The total number of mentally disordered persons under community care of the Local Health Authority is shown on page 100 and a summary of the work performed by the mental welfare officers is shown in Table 20.

## JUNIOR TRAINING CENTRES

Progress continued to be maintained in the training facilities for 246 subnormal and severely subnormal children in the following centres :—

						<i>No. of places provided.</i>
Alnwick	—	Barndale House	Howling Lane	Alnwick.		
		(Residential)	..	..	..	31
Ashington	—	South View	Ashington	..	..	48
Bedlington	—	1 Beech Grove	Bedlington	..	..	35
Hexham	—	Priory Buildings	Beaumont St.	Hexham		12
Prudhoe	—	54 West Road	Prudhoe	..	..	10
Tweedmouth	—	Grove Gardens	Tweedmouth	..	..	30
Wallsend	—	Elton Street	Wallsend	..	..	60
Wallsend	—	East End Park	Howdon (Special Care Unit)			20

The residential junior training centre at Alnwick is open from Mondays to Fridays during school term : it continued to serve a very useful purpose and the 31 places were fully occupied during the year.

The policy continued of introducing new methods into the curriculum and on programmes of training leading towards social competence.

During the year an additional nursery assistant was appointed at Wallsend Special Care Unit which allowed an intake of a further ten young children, and thus reduced the waiting list.

Reorganisation of accommodation in Wallsend Training Centre and building alterations at Ashington Training Centre took place during the year to meet the needs for additional pupils. This resulted in twelve more places for juniors at Wallsend and twelve places for children in a new Special Care Unit at Ashington Training Centre. The latter provision made a considerable contribution to the care of the most severely handicapped in the Central area of the county.

Mid-day meals have continued to be provided in day training centres by the School Meals Service at a charge of 1s. 6d. per day excepting cases of parental financial hardship, or in families of more than three dependent children, when arrangements are made for meals to be provided free of charge.

Medical and dental examinations were carried out by the school medical and dental staff.

The training centres provided practical work placements to students from Diploma Courses for Teachers of the Mentally Handicapped, and gave assistance also to student nurses and



students from Universities, Technical Colleges and Grammar Schools for visits of observation.

The centres continued to receive generous support from individual and local organisations in the form of gifts which were greatly appreciated by both pupils and staff.

#### INDUSTRIAL UNITS

Blyth Industrial Unit, Kitty Brewster Trading Estate,  
Blyth.

Addison Potter Industrial Unit, Clavering Street,  
Willington Quay.

Generally the year was one of progress in these two industrial units with places for 200 trainees working in a workshop atmosphere.

The type of work undertaken in the units varied from assembling and packing to the production of manufactured articles, and also printing. At one of the units the trainees have been responsible for grass cutting on sites of neighbouring factories.

The income during the year from work done at Blyth Industrial Unit was £6,281 and £2,257 at Addison Potter Industrial Unit. Trainees receive a " wage packet " up to a maximum of £2 per week according to their respective abilities and productivity.

Whilst appreciating the economic side of industrial units it is also necessary to continue a programme of social training for the trainees who are capable of absorbing this instruction. Other aspects of social competence included unsupervised journeys, the use of the telephone, shopping excursions, and various visits of interest.

The majority of trainees are now able to use public transport to and from the units, but it is still necessary to provide some trainees with private transport where it is known there would be frequent changes especially in town areas.

#### THERAPEUTIC SOCIAL CLUBS

The four psychiatric clubs continued to meet one evening each week with an average membership of 25 under the supervision of the mental health staff, together with voluntary workers, supported by members of the consultant and social worker staff of St. George's Hospital, Morpeth.

The activities in these clubs have been as varied as possible and have included social evenings, indoor games, music and groups of entertainers.

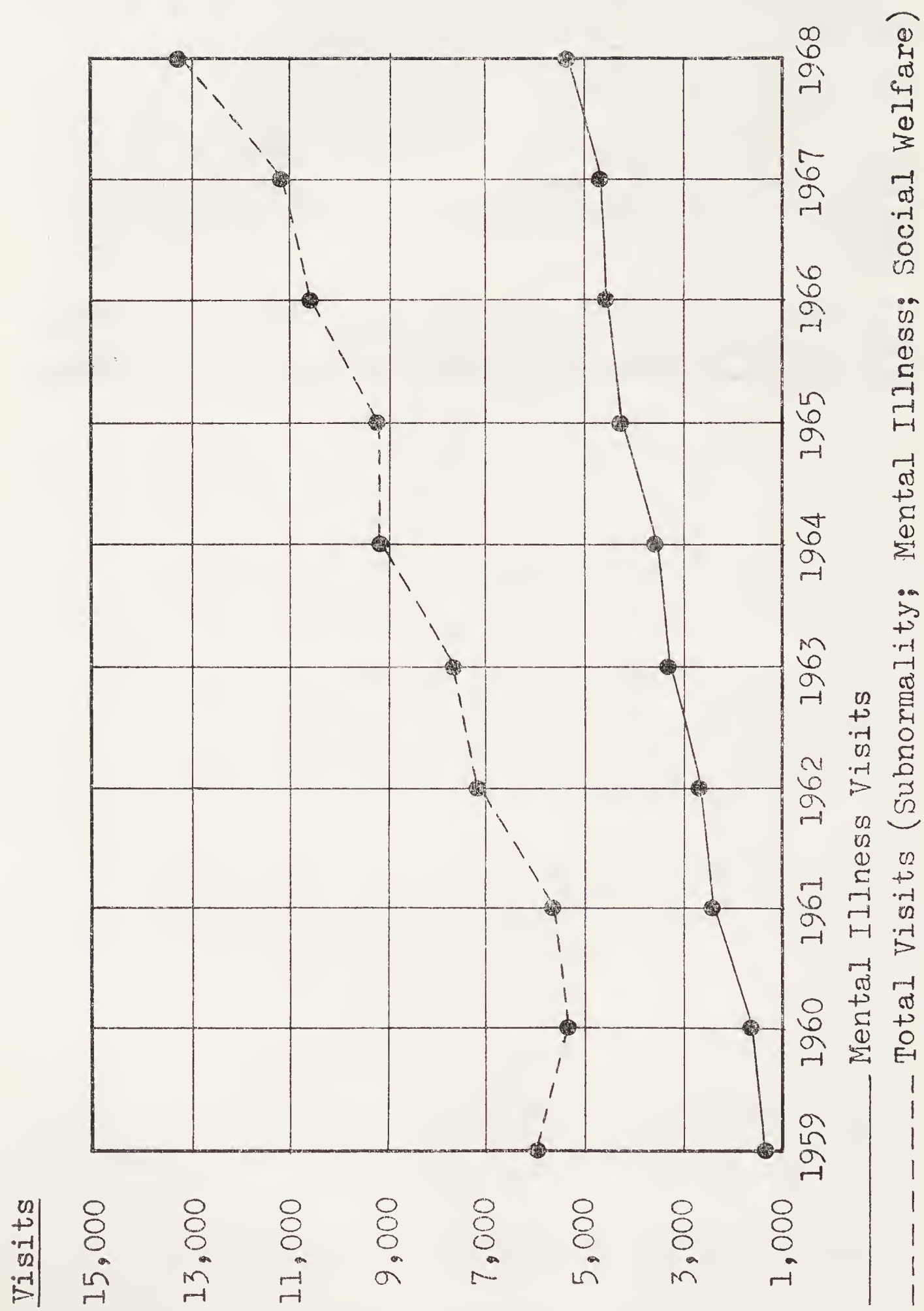
The clubs have proved helpful to patients during their immediate post-hospital period when they are re-adapting themselves once again to community life.

There is also a club providing social activities for mentally handicapped men and women under the leadership of the industrial unit staff.

#### VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Two organisations, the Gosforth and District Peter Pan Society and the Whitley Bay and District Society for Mentally Handicapped Children arrange a variety of activities for all age groups of mentally subnormal persons in their areas. Both organisations have extensive programmes, and their work is of the greatest value.

For the fifth year, the Northumberland Branch of the British Red Cross Society organised a week's holiday camp for 28 boys and girls. This again proved successful and was enjoyed by the children.





## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

### WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE

#### RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

The advice of the Minister of Health in the Health and Welfare Report "Development of Community Care" published in 1966, suggested a ratio of between 15 and 25 places per 1,000 population aged 65 and over. The figures given in the 1966 census sample show an over 65 population of about 57,000 in Northumberland.

When the new 60 bed home at Cramlington is completed in 1970 the total number of beds available for old people will be 993. This gives a ratio of 17 per 1,000 old people. The only other home approved by the Council for the future is a 50 bedded home at Westerhope. By the time of its completion the increase in the ageing population will have kept the ratio of places down to no more than 17 per 1,000. At the time of writing the number of people waiting for accommodation is almost 200 and consideration must be given to the erection of more old people's homes as soon as possible.

Forty additional beds were provided early in the year by the conversion of the maternity hospital building, originally part of the Thomas Taylor Homes at Stannington. Building work commenced on the new 60 bed home in Cramlington New Town.

Present establishments, with bed accommodation, are as follows :—

HOME	ACCOMMODATION		
	Men	Women	Total
Bell View, Belford .. ..	2	24	26
Greenholme, Haltwhistle .. ..	17	5	22
Thomas Taylor Homes, Stannington	197	226	423
Nicholas Garrow Home, Hepscott..	9	23	32
Haining Croft, Hexham .. ..	12	11	23
Springfield, Morpeth .. ..	—	15	15
Priorsdale, Newcastle .. ..	16	—	16
Doxford Hall, Chathill .. ..	30	23	53
Tynedale, Wallsend .. ..	14	19	33
Ralph Allan Home, Warkworth ..	22	40	62
Cowpen House, Blyth .. ..	14	18	32
Northfield, Morpeth .. ..	10	—	10
Earsdon Grange, Whitley Bay ..	24	37	61
Merley Croft, Morpeth .. ..	16	16	32
Essendene, Ashington .. ..	27	35	62
Seton Hall, Tweedmouth .. ..	25	38	63
	435	530	965

The Council agreed to release surplus land around the small home at Haltwhistle for development by the Rural District Council as an old persons estate and envisaged within the next three years replacing the present ex-institution type of building which, with past modernisation works has housed in comfort 22 old people

for many years, by a new home of 30 beds. In effect the two schemes will result in adjoining welfare and special housing with maximum benefit for the old people of the rural district.

During the year the Council decided to limit the free issue of sweets or tobacco to residents of Welfare Homes to a fortnightly issue, taking into account the increase of residents' personal allowance from 16/- to 18/- a week.

In view of the ages and in many cases the degree of infirmity of residents, it has been necessary to employ night attendant staff in nearly all Welfare Homes.

#### TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES

During the year 30 family groups of 30 mothers and 50 children were provided with short periods of temporary accommodation in the unit at the Thomas Taylor Homes. The officers of the Children's Department assisted in dealing with the problems of these families.

Arrangements were made to improve the accommodation available to homeless families by adaptation of the former ante natal clinic building.

#### OTHER RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

The number of private rest homes registered by the Council increased again by 3 and now consists of 30 homes, the majority in Whitley Bay, providing 623 places for old and handicapped people. Eight of these homes are owned by religious and charitable organisations and between them they account for nearly 300 of the 623 places.

Voluntary organisations providing special housing for the elderly for which they receive financial aid from the Council are shown in the following list.

	<i>Residents</i>
Abbeyfield (Hexham) Society .. ..	5
Abbeyfield (Gosforth) Society .. ..	10
Autumn Homes Ltd., Hexham .. ..	6
Avenue Friendship Club, Whitley Bay..	8
Catholic Women's League, Whitley Bay	7
Whitley Bay and Monkseaton Housing Association Ltd. .. ..	80

As reported in 1967 the number of Housing Authorities in the County who have plans to provide special housing for their old people with welfare facilities financed by the County Council has increased. Schemes so far approved are as follows :—

<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Units of Accommodation</i>
Haltwhistle Rural District .. ..	32
Ashington Urban District .. ..	88
Glendale Rural District .. ..	60
Castle Ward Rural District .. ..	14
Wallsend Borough .. ..	326
Amble Urban District .. ..	15
Whitley Bay Borough .. ..	34
Alnwick Urban District .. ..	16

It is interesting to note in respect of the Haltwhistle flats which were built in 1961 that there were no applications from tenants for accommodation in a County Home until towards the end of 1968 when one old lady required extra care and attention and was admitted to a home.

Schemes of this nature undoubtedly provide the companionship needed by old people living on their own and this, with help from the warden, has made a most valuable contribution to the care of old people in the County.

## SOCIAL WELFARE

The Council continued financial aid to 96 Over 60 Clubs. Twenty seven Meals on Wheels schemes and nineteen luncheon clubs have been provided by local voluntary effort : they supplied 116,979 meals during the year to old people. These worthwhile services are much appreciated, and assist greatly in maintaining old people in their own homes.

The Northumberland Old People's Voluntary Welfare Committee with its associated rural and urban committees and their field workers continued its valuable work and the Council maintained their financial support.

The annual handicraft exhibition was held at the Thomas Taylor Homes attended by some 600 members of Over 60 and other Clubs throughout the County. It was arranged by the members and staff of the Northumberland Old People's Voluntary Welfare and associated Urban and Rural Committees. Residents of the Homes contributed handicraft work and attended the exhibition where they met the visitors and enjoyed exchanges of interesting gossip during the two day show.

A great deal of help is given throughout the year in many of the Council's homes by individuals and voluntary bodies and this is greatly appreciated. The help from children in the county schools is worthy of special comment.



## WELFARE OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS

2,602 handicapped persons were registered at the end of the year compared with 2,513 in the preceding December, the largest increase again being in the physically handicapped group.

Domiciliary visits by social welfare officers played an important part in the services provided.

Liaison with medical practitioners, consultants and hospital social workers regarding the patients' condition and treatment ; and with officers of the Departments of Health and Social Security and Employment and Productivity was equally important.

Voluntary effort has always been encouraged and this has resulted in the active participation of members of the 23 voluntary committees for handicapped persons (including committees for the blind) established in the County. Much help was also received from members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, British Red Cross Society, Rotary Club and Round Table who conducted clubs and arranged outings and other social activities in their areas. These functions have been most beneficial to handicapped people, often giving them confidence to meet others and widening their interests.

Thirteen craft classes for physically handicapped and eight for blind and partially sighted persons were conducted by two part-time occupational therapists, four craft instructors and blind welfare officers in various parts of the County throughout the year. A variety of articles was produced and many were disposed of at exhibitions and sales of work although the handicapped people themselves were successful in finding a market for some of the articles they made. Domiciliary craft instruction was also given to housebound people and those living in remote areas.

Arrangements were made for a party of 37 handicapped people to spend a holiday at the Youth Club hostel at Thropton and volunteers from the St. John Ambulance Brigade and others once again helped to look after them both in the hostel and on the outings which were arranged. In conjunction with the West Northumberland Voluntary Committee for Handicapped Persons, 17 handicapped (including some blind) spent a holiday at Brackelsham Bay Camp. Holidays were also arranged for blind and deaf blind persons.

The Council paid for or contributed towards the cost of the majority of holidays including some privately arranged.

The British Red Cross Society arranged a holiday camp for sixteen handicapped children at Glanton.

The following summary indicates holiday arrangements or assistance given towards holidays :—

At holiday homes for blind persons .. ..	14
Holidays for deaf blind persons arranged in conjunction with the North Regional Association for the Blind .. ..	4
Holidays to Thropton (at headquarters of Association of Youth Clubs) for physically handicapped persons .. ..	37
Holidays to private guest house at Ulgham ..	6
Holidays to Brackelsham Bay .. ..	17
Holidays to Merley Croft .. ..	72
Holidays to Nicholas Garrow Home for Blind ..	5
Children's holiday at Glanton (arranged in conjunction with British Red Cross Society) ..	16
Privately arranged holidays .. ..	28
<b>TOTAL .. ..</b>	<b>199</b>

### Blind and Partially Sighted Persons

Ophthalmologists carried out 195 examinations and re-examinations under the Council's scheme to determine patients' eligibility for registration.

36 men and 63 women were newly registered as blind during the year. All but 22 of the new cases of blindness were over 65 years of age. 34 were in fact over 80 and of this number there were two centenarians. Two children under 5 and two in the 5 — 15 age group were newly registered as blind.

Nine of the 50 newly registered partially sighted persons were under 65 years of age. One was a child of under a year and another a child of 7 years.

Age groups of registered blind and partially sighted persons on 31st December were :—

	BLIND			PARTIALLY SIGHTED		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Under 5 ..	1	1	2	—	2	2
5 — 15 ..	8	6	14	19	6	25
16 — 20 ..	6	2	8	6	7	13
21 — 49 ..	67	44	111	36	9	45
50 — 64 ..	64	64	128	18	17	35
65 — 69 ..	35	34	69	7	17	24
70 — 79 ..	87	129	216	18	36	54
80 — 84 ..	36	78	114	10	25	35
Over 85 ..	29	77	106	6	22	28
	333	435	768	120	141	261

A summary of causes of blindness of new cases is shown on the next page.

### SOCIAL WELFARE

A summary of visits made by blind welfare officers is shown in Table 22.

Table of causes of blindness and defective vision of cases registered in 1968 :—

	<i>Blind</i>	<i>Partially Sighted</i>
Senile cataract .. .. .	8	3
Cataract and secondary conditions ..	15	14
Cataract and diabetic conditions ..	14	4
Glaucoma .. .. .	3	2
Glaucoma and secondary conditions ..	12	10
Senile macular degeneration .. ..	12	2
Senile macular degeneration with second- ary conditions .. .. .	9	5
Detached Retina, Retinal haemorrhages, Retinal degeneration and Retinoblastoma	9	1
Corneal scarring, Corneal ulcers and Keratitis .. .. .	2	2
Optic atrophy .. .. .	7	1
Myopia and secondary conditions ..	3	—
Choroido degeneration		
Choroidal sclerosis .. .. .	2	—
Cerebral damage		
Cerebrovascular accidents .. ..	1	1
Albinism nystagmus .. .. .	—	1
Congenital aniridia .. .. .	—	1
Multiple conditions .. .. .	2	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL .. .. .	99	50
	<hr/>	<hr/>

In addition to visiting blind and partially sighted persons and advising upon social problems, the duties of blind welfare officers included the investigation of new applicants, teaching Braille, Moon and handicrafts, helping newly registered persons to become adjusted to failing vision and generally assisting in their rehabilitation. When new readers of embossed types became proficient, arrangements were made for them to become members of the National Library for the Blind, Manchester, and for books to be obtained from the Tynemouth Library for the Blind.

Other benefits of registration for blind persons are :—

- (i) a special rate of assistance from the Department of Health and Social Security.
- (ii) a free wireless set issued by the British Wireless for the Blind Fund.
- (iii) a free wireless licence.
- (iv) an additional personal allowance for Income Tax purposes.
- (v) grants from voluntary funds.
- (vi) apparatus such as Braille writing frame, walking stick, Braille clocks and watches at special rates.
- (vii) exemption from purchase of dog licences in certain cases.
- (viii) provision of Talking Books issued by the British Talking Book Service for the Blind, and in some instances provision of guide dogs.



The Royal National Institute for the Blind continued to make bi-annual grants to the County Blind Persons Trust Fund. The trustees of the fund made grants to local voluntary committees, to blind persons and for special purposes.

In addition to outings arranged by local voluntary committees, three joint outings were arranged centrally — one to Blagdon Hall, through the courtesy of Viscount and Viscountess Ridley, and two to Southgate, Morpeth.

## EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION

Five blind and partially sighted persons attended industrial rehabilitation centres at Torquay and Ceres, Fife, through the department of Employment and Productivity who were financially responsible for their places.

Twenty three blind persons, in addition to two sighted disabled, were employed in the Newcastle Workshops for the Adult Blind, which is administered by a joint committee of representatives of constituent authorities.

It is hoped to dispense with the traditional trades and develop new trades at the workshops and during the year arrangements were made for workers in the basket and mat department to be re-trained in upholstery and bedding.

The following table shows the employment position of the registered blind in December.

Employed in Workshops for the Blind	..	..	23
Engaged in open employment :			
Physiotherapists	..	..	2
Teacher	..	..	1
Clergyman	..	..	1
Solicitor, Barrister	..	..	2
Ministry Officer	..	..	1
Typist and office worker	..	..	1
Telephone operators	..	..	9
Business proprietors and executives	..		3
Salesman	..	..	1
Labourer	..	..	5
Factory Worker	..	..	1
Domestic Worker	..	..	1
Miscellaneous	..	..	4
		—	32
			—
			55
			—

## Generally Handicapped

### REGISTRATION

Unlike registration for the blind and partially sighted, it is not necessary for an applicant to be medically examined or produce a medical certificate in order to be registered but according to the National Assistance Act the official definition is “substantially

and permanently handicapped." If there is a doubt as to the diagnosis or prognosis the advice of the medical practitioner or hospital consultant is obtained.

One hundred and fifty five persons were newly registered as physically handicapped during the year, the principal causes being arthritis and rheumatic conditions (22), multiple sclerosis (20) and hemiplegia (28).

The age groups of all persons registered on the 31st December were :—

	Men	Women	Total
Under 16 ..	23	17	40
16 — 29 ..	86	75	161
30 — 49 ..	199	154	353
50 — 64 ..	248	236	484
65 and over ..	113	118	231
	<hr/> 669	<hr/> 600	<hr/> 1,269

## SOCIAL WELFARE

In addition to discussing social problems with handicapped people the officers advised upon apparatus and structural alterations which might help them to become more independent.

The Council assisted with the cost or paid for adaptations and aids as follows :—..

Provision of downstairs toilets .. ..	6
Provision of ramps, handrails, etc. ..	17
Provision of sites for garages .. ..	11
Indoor alterations .. ..	2
Miscellaneous provisions.. ..	6
Provision of bath aids, raised toilet seats, etc. .. ..	20
Provision of special chairs, tables, walking aids, etc. .. ..	8

Assistance has been given by the County Architect's department in advising, preparing plans, and obtaining planning permission and estimates for work.

The social welfare officers worked in close co-operation with the craft instructors in recommending suitable persons for craft instruction. They also kept in close contact with the voluntary committees for handicapped and attended the club meetings for handicapped held from time to time.

Two hundred and thirty one car badges, including 90 new issues and 141 renewals were provided for disabled drivers during the year.

Seventy of the persons investigated were not registered but advice was given where possible and they were referred to other bodies.

## EMPLOYMENT

A close liaison was maintained with Disablement Resettlement Officers of the Department of Employment and Productivity regarding possible training, rehabilitation and employment of handicapped persons but difficulty continued to be experienced in placing severely handicapped persons in suitable employment.

## EPILEPTIC AND SPASTIC PERSONS

In December there were 63 adult epileptic persons registered five of whom were newly found during the year.

In addition there were 22 epileptic children known to the department, 6 attending special schools, 9 in ordinary schools, 3 receiving home tuition and 6 who were not suitable for education.

Two men were admitted to an epileptic colony during the year. In December the Council were maintaining 14 adults in epileptic colonies.

Eighty seven spastic persons were registered in December, five having been newly registered during the year. 46 spastic children are known to the department but only 11 are registered as handicapped under the Council's scheme at present. 24 spastic children were attending special schools, 13 were in ordinary schools, 4 were receiving home tuition, while 5 were ineducable.

Two young spastic persons commenced at the Percy Hedley Day Workroom during the year and in December, 16 were attending the centre, four being resident in Chipchase Hostel attached to the Centre. The Council contributed towards the cost incurred.

## DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Blind welfare officers continued to carry out social welfare services on behalf of the deaf in the north and west of the County while the Northumberland and Durham Mission acted as the Council's agents in other parts of the County area and were also available throughout the County for specialist services.

Age groups of the registered deaf on the 31st December were :-

			Men		Women		Total
<i>Deaf with speech</i>							
Under 16	..	..	8	..	—	..	8
16 — 64..	..	..	50	..	49	..	99
65 and over	..	..	9	..	11	..	20
			—		—		—
			67	..	60	..	127
			—		—		—
<i>Deaf without Speech</i>							
Under 16	..	..	10	..	23	..	33
16 — 64..	..	..	37	..	28	..	65
65 and over	..	..	3	..	5	..	8
			—		—		—
			50	..	56	..	106
			—		—		—



*Hard of Hearing*

Under 16	..	..	7	..	20	..	27
16 — 64..	..	..	19	..	17	..	36
65 and over	..	..	4	..	4	..	8
			<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
			30	..	41	..	71
			<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

**EMPLOYMENT**

Four women and one man were placed in employment in factories and three men commenced employment as a paint sprayer, joiner and warehouseman respectively.

**SOCIAL WELFARE**

The fortnightly clubs at Blyth and Wallsend continued to function while some deaf attended the club in Newcastle.

Holidays were arranged by the Mission to Morecambe and Southport and a number enjoyed organised outings.

**Special Homes****NICHOLAS GARROW HOME FOR THE BLIND, HEPSCOTT**

The home, opened in 1948, provided permanent accommodation for 32 blind and partially sighted elderly persons. During periods when permanent residents returned to relatives for a holiday, it was possible for five blind people to have holidays in the home.

Residents again competed in a domino challenge competition and each month a visit was made to a club for the blind to play a match while a return match took place at the home.

**MERLEY CROFT, MORPETH**

The home continued to provide accommodation for 32 physically handicapped persons of all ages.

It has been realised for some time there is a great need for temporary accommodation for handicapped people to give relatives a rest and a holiday and also to give handicapped people a change. Two beds were permanently reserved for holiday residents and in addition similar arrangements were made when the permanent residents went on holiday. Seventy two such admissions were arranged during the year.

Craft instruction, physiotherapy, chiropody and speech therapy continued to be provided.

The specially adapted vehicle, garaged at the home, was used regularly to take the residents out and the department is grateful to the voluntary drivers for their services. The bus was also used by local voluntary committees and other organisations for transporting handicapped people.

## OTHER VOLUNTARY HOMES FOR HANDICAPPED

The Council maintained handicapped persons in voluntary homes as follows :—

Epileptic colonies	..	..	14
Cheshire homes..	..	..	5
Hostel for crippled women	..		1
Hostel for spastics	..	..	4
British Legion Home	..	..	1
Home for deaf blind	..	..	1
Home for deaf	..	..	1
Homes for blind	..	..	2

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

### HOUSING

#### NEW HOUSES

The number of new houses built in the county during 1968 was 5,031. This is not only a significant improvement over the previous year's total of 3,258, but is in fact a record for any one year in either the pre- or post-war periods. The previous record total in 1954 was almost 1,000 less. This achievement has been made possible by an increase in building both by local authorities and by private enterprise. Council houses built totalled 2,422, the highest number since 1953 and also double the 1967 figure. In addition Newcastle Corporation provided no less than 811 new dwellings in estates situated within the administrative county, their greatest increase for thirteen years. Privately built houses numbered 1,788, also well above the post-war average. Details will be found in Table 24 from which it will be seen that the Newcastle overspill has this year affected three contiguous county districts — Longbenton and Newburn Urban Districts and Castle Ward Rural District — and it is also interesting to note that Ashington U.D.C. have opened up a housing estate in the neighbouring Newbiggin Urban District.

#### SLUM CLEARANCE

The number of houses put out of use during 1968 (Table 25) also reached a record total of 1,050, as compared with 707 the preceding year. On only one previous occasion since the war has this annual total exceeded four figures (1,012 in 1961). It was estimated early in the year by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government that over the Northern Region as a whole, if the rate of slum clearance could be stepped up by 40%, the present problem would be overcome in ten years, and it is an increase of just that order that has taken place in Northumberland in the year under review. So far nine county districts appear to have completed their clearance schemes and the current estimate of houses to be dealt with in the county shows about 3,500 unfit properties remaining.

#### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

These fall into two categories — discretionary grants for reconditioning of properties sound in fabric but lacking modern amenities, and standard grants, available to owners as of right for the provision of certain basic services.

Work on discretionary grants has for the fifth year running declined, and 502 grant applications were approved as compared with 558 in 1967 (see Table 26). This decrease is due to a slackening off on the part of the urban areas — the rural districts show little change from the previous year. The average amount of discretionary grant given in England and Wales in 1968 was £309 per



property, and the corresponding figure for Northumberland was £315. Only one county district, Whitley Bay Borough, did not make any such grants during the year. There were in addition some 140 council houses modernised with the help of Exchequer grant.

Standard grants continued to run at about the average rate, and 315 were recorded (see Table 26). The compulsory powers made available to local authorities to obtain house improvements by this means have made little impact. Gosforth Urban District Council was again the only county district to make use of formal procedure and was one of only 130 councils in England and Wales to do so.

### WATER SUPPLIES

There was no change in the arrangements for water supply during the year. The County is served by two statutory undertakings whose areas of supply are as follows :—.

**NEWCASTLE AND GATESHEAD WATER COMPANY :** The Boroughs of Berwick, Blyth and Wallsend ; the Urban Districts of Alnwick, Amble, Gosforth, Hexham, Longbenton, Newburn, Prudhoe and Seaton Valley ; the Rural Districts of Alnwick, Belford, Bellingham, Castle Ward, Glendale, Haltwhistle, Hexham, Norham and Islandshires and Rothbury. (A small part of the extreme south of Hexham Rural District is, as a matter of convenience, included in the statutory area of the Durham County Water Board).

**TYNEMOUTH CORPORATION :** The Boroughs of Morpeth and Whitley Bay ; the Urban Districts of Ashington, Bedlingtonshire and Newbiggin ; the Rural District of Morpeth.

There are no major water supply schemes still to be carried out within the County. Only a few small isolated centres of population remain not served by statutory undertakers ; some of these are being dealt with by minor schemes now in progress but there will be a limit to how far this process may continue because of the high cost in relation to the number of properties served. Figures supplied by the district councils show that there are now less than 1,600 houses in the county without mains water.

The bacteriological examination of water is undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory at the General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne. Copies of the reports on water samples taken by authorities in the administrative county were received in the department and unsatisfactory results were investigated. Seven hundred and fifty-nine samples were taken during the year (almost exactly the same number as in 1967) from public and private supplies. Five hundred and seventy were highly satisfactory, 15 satisfactory, 1 suspicious and 173 (or 23% of the total) unsatisfactory. The apparently large number of unsatisfactory samples is accounted for mainly by special investigations into individual private sources.

## FLUORIDATION

The scheme agreed with the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company to adjust the fluoride level of their supply at their Whittle Dene and Throckley undertakings continued to be subject to delay and it was not until the 7th October that the plant was finally put into operation, from which date until the end of the year the initial "running in" troubles were gradually being overcome. A programme of intensive sampling carried out both by the Water Company and by my department during these early stages showed that the optimum level of 1 p.p.m. was on no occasion exceeded.

Only the south eastern part of the Company's area is fed from these two sources, a very rough estimate of the population involved being about 100,000. The further north one proceeds from the Newcastle boundary, the greater is the dilution of the fluoridated supply by that from the Coquet Water Board, so that a further 30,000 estimated persons will be receiving only partially fluoridated water for the time being. It will be impossible to do anything further for these areas and for other parts of the county relying entirely on the Coquet supply, unless and until Tynemouth Corporation, which is a constituent member of the Board, reverses its decision not to accept fluoridation.

The next development in this direction will be the installation of plant at the Water Company's Gunnerton supply point, which will extend fluoridation along the South Tyne Valley to the south west of the County and as far as the eastern-most part of Cumberland.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME

One major scheme completed during the year was the first phase of the Cramlington New Town sewerage system including the new disposal works. It is gratifying to be able to report the commencement of Hexham Rural District Council's comprehensive scheme for the Mid-Tyne area, including Corbridge which was, as a matter of interest, the subject of a statutory notice for river pollution served on the Rural District Council as long ago as 1921, since when conditions have not changed appreciably.

At last it can be said that some real progress is becoming apparent in the matter of pollution prevention in the estuarial portion of the River Tyne, for long a disgrace to the North. The Tyneside Joint Sewerage Board, formed in 1966, is now considering details of design and it is hoped that constructional work will be able to commence in 1970. Six local authorities in the administrative county are members of the Board and between them are responsible for 21% of its total precept.



## RURAL WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWERAGE ACTS 1944 — 55

### Schemes Submitted for Approval

The work of the County Water Supplies and Sewerage Committee was transferred to the Health Committee at the end of 1967.

During 1968 the following schemes were approved for grant aid under the Acts.

Hexham Urban District	Relief sewer, Causey Hill .. .. .	£7,568
Belford Rural District	Water main extension to Belford Village ..	£34,843
Castle Ward Rural District	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme, Matfen Village .. .. .	£42,600
Hexham Rural District	Water supply scheme, Low Brunton, Wall, and St. Oswald's Phase 1 (carried out 1967)	£8,306
	Phase 2 .. .. .	£7,611
Rothbury Rural District	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme, Thropton Village .. .. .	£40,400

### Ministry Inquiries and Investigations

The only visit made by a Ministry of Housing and Local Government Inspector during the year was on 23rd — 24th January, to investigate proposals of the Prudhoe Urban District Council for extensions of their sewage treatment works (estimated cost £308,733) and associated works of sewerage by Hexham Rural District Council (estimated cost £120,580) to bring sewage from the villages of Horsley, Ovington, Ovingham and Wylam to Prudhoe for treatment. My department was represented at the investigation and evidence given in support of the schemes. It has since been learnt that the Ministry referred back the Prudhoe scheme on the grounds that a completely newly-designed works was preferable to further extensions of those existing. It is to be hoped that the delay caused by this decision will not be a long one, since the position in the Hexham villages is becoming acute because of an explosion of speculative building and the River Authority's refusal to accept any increase in effluent from the existing obsolete sewer outfalls.

### Work in Progress

The following are details of work in progress during the year with some indication of the stage reached by 31st December.

<i>District</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Blyth Borough	Main drainage scheme .. .. .	50% completed
Morpeth Borough	Extension to sewage treatment works	50% completed
Longbenton Urban District	West Wideopen Sewerage (jointly with Castle Ward Rural District) .. ..	33% completed
Alnwick Rural District	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Alnmouth and Lesbury .. ..	75% completed



Bellingham Rural District	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme, East Woodburn .. .. .	Commenced
Haltwhistle Rural District	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme Henshaw and Bardon Mill .. .. .	95% completed
Hexham Rural District	Mid-Tyne sewerage and sewage disposal scheme (Corbridge — Stocksfield) ..	Commenced
	Water supply scheme Brunton Bank (Phase II) .. .. .	80% completed
	Water supply scheme, Settlingstones	40% completed
Rothbury Rural District	Reconditioning and extension of sewage treatment works, Rothbury ..	95% completed

#### Schemes completed during year

<i>District</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Month</i>
Ashington Urban District	Jubilee Estate sewerage scheme ..	June
Seaton Valley Urban District	Cramlington New Town sewerage (first phase) and disposal works .. ..	October
Alnwick Rural District	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme, Embleton and Christon Bank ..	July
Haltwhistle Rural District	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme, Greenhead and Bankfoot .. ..	December
Hexham Rural District	Water supply scheme, Brunton Bank (Phase I) .. .. .	March
Morpeth Rural District	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme, Thirston .. .. .	June

#### CLEAN AIR ACTS 1956 — 1968

There has been a further increase in smoke control within the County during the year. The present position is as shown in the accompanying table.

<i>County District</i>	<i>No. of Areas</i>	<i>Acreage Controlled</i>	<i>Properties Controlled</i>
Wallsend Borough ..	4	979	3,632
Whitley Bay Borough ..	4	1,521	3,570
Longbenton Urban (Killingworth New Town)	1	465	620
Newburn Urban .. ..	8	623	4,088
Seaton Valley Urban .. (Cramlington New Town)	1	1,960	1,398
	18	5,548	13,308

This shows an increase of some 4,000 smoke-controlled properties over the 1967 figure. In addition there are further schemes which in the near future will bring in another 5,400 properties in six areas, but only one of these is by an authority not already represented in the table.

It is interesting to note that to date Newburn U.D. has nearly 35% of its dwelling houses in smoke control areas, the figures for Whitley Bay and Wallsend being 27% and 23% respectively.

## MILK AND DAIRIES

### Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963

### Milk (Special Designation) (Amendment) Regulations 1965

The Council as food and drugs authority has the duty of licensing and supervision of all dealers in designated milk and this work is carried out within the department, together with supervision of milk treatment plants, specified area enforcement, etc. Wallsend Borough and the Longbenton Urban District Council are separate authorities for this purpose.

The designations permitted under the Regulations are " Untreated ", " Pasteurised ", " Sterilised " and " Ultra Heat Treated."

#### DEALERS' LICENCES

Changes in the number of licences in force are shown in the accompanying Table.

	At 1st January 1968	Additions during year	Deletions during year	At 31st December 1968
Licence to bottle Un- treated Milk (Form B)	17	1	1	17
Pasteuriser's Licence (Form C) .. ..	6	—	—	6
Steriliser's Licence (Form D) .. ..	2	—	—	2
Dealer's Licence for Un- treated, Pasteurised Sterilised Milk & Ultra Heat Treated Milk (Form F) .. ..	336	57	8	335
Dealer's Licence for Ster- ilised Milk only (Form F) .. ..	277	4	13	268
	638	62	22	678

Most of the alterations were accounted for by changes of ownership. Two of the new applications were from retail shops for licences to sell Ultra Heat Treated milk, the first to appear in the County. This milk, which is packed in cartons, has an extended life without the disadvantages of flavour associated with sterilised milk, and is therefore suitable for shop trade, although its price makes it somewhat unattractive for anything other than emergency use. Its distribution is at present through the wholesale grocery network, and although probably several weeks old when exposed for sale it is still a satisfactory product and has been found to comply easily with the statutory bacteriological test. Also exposed for sale alongside it, and in a similar package, one often finds " Long Life Cream " treated by the same process. So far there is no statutory control over this, which again prompts the question as to how



much longer the processing and sale of cream is to be allowed in the present unregulated manner. The risks from consumption of infected cream are no less than those from milk and yet no licence is required to deal in cream nor are any official standards laid down for its effective heat treatment.

Milk sampling and the inspection of dealers' premises are carried out by the County Health Inspector and during the year 388 visits were paid to dealers other than licensed processors, as compared with 371 in the previous year. Only a few minor contraventions of the Regulations were noted and these were dealt with by informal action.

### PRODUCERS' LICENCES

These continued to be the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food through their county officers, whom I am indebted for the figures quoted in this paragraph. The number of farms in the county registered for milk production at the end of the year was 631 compared with 664 for the previous year.

All herds are now attested and licences are only necessary for those 143 producers who dispose of milk by retail or as "farm-bottled."

### MILK SAMPLING — STATUTORY

The total number of samples taken during the year was 1,465 as compared with 1,468 in 1967. The proportion of failures was also about the same except for Untreated milk which showed an increase from 9% to 24% unsatisfactory. In these cases, where on investigation no fault could be found with the dealers' methods of storage and handling, it had to be assumed that the trouble originated at the farm and here the matter could only be passed on to the officers of the Ministry of Agriculture for such action as they might find appropriate.

	Passed	Failed	Void	Total
Untreated Milk—				
Methylene Blue Test .. ..	104	33	—	137
Pasteurised Milk—				
Methylene Blue Test .. ..	600	35	2	637
Phosphatase Test .. ..	637	—	—	637
Sterilised Milk—				
Turbidity Test .. ..	54	—	—	54
	1,395	68	2	1,465



## MILK SAMPLING— BIOLOGICAL — BRUCELLA ABORTUS

Samples of milk continued to be taken by district council health departments for examination for *Brucella Abortus* and during the year 199 such samples, from 82 different herds, were submitted. The sampling pattern over the county is very uneven. Some districts submitted no samples at all, and for those herds sampled, the frequency varied from once annually to ten or more times. The total achieved was disappointing when compared with the 369 samples from 119 herds recorded in 1967. In addition the County Health Inspector took 82 samples from the supplies of 54 dealers. Altogether 9 positive ring tests were recorded and one further case was reported by another authority. Four of these were not confirmed by direct culture. Of the other 6 producers, 2 ceased retail sales completely, and 3 were dealt with by identification and segregation of affected animals, though 2 of these herds still could not be finally written off as clear at the end of the year. The one remaining case was found as a result of investigation into a human case of brucellosis, and here 8 animals in the herd were confirmed as infected. No raw milk was actually being sold from this farm and so no formal action was called for under the Regulations. All the cases referred to were in fact dealt with informally. The service of notice under Regulation 20 is seldom found necessary, in this county at least.

The Ministry of Agriculture made a start with their scheme for brucella-free herds, although this is so far on a voluntary basis. The scheme has been slow to start and by the end of 1968 only 24 producers in Northumberland were on the "Accredited" list. There are, however, known to be many more applications pending in the county and it is now possible to look forward to the eventual eradication of this infection from the nation's milking herds.

## TUBERCULOSIS

Biological testing for tuberculosis is not now carried out as a routine in the county except for school milk supplies, hospital farms and very occasional samples from other producer-retailers. During the year 28 samples were tested, all being negative. No case of tuberculous milk has occurred in the county for over ten years.

## OTHER INFECTIONS

A case of salmonellosis in the herd of a producer-retailer with an extensive milk round was notified by the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture following the death of two calves, and the presence of the organism (*Salmonella Dublin*) was confirmed in the actual milk supplied. The local medical officer of health was able to arrange informally with the co-operation of the farmer for this milk to be heat-treated and an alternative supply distributed

until the infection in the herd was cleared up, which after some two months was successfully achieved. Thanks probably to the swift action by all concerned there was no evidence of any outbreak of human illness in the district arising from this potentially dangerous situation.

#### PASTEURISING PLANTS

The number of licensed pasteurising plants in the County remains at 6, with daily throughputs varying from 1,100 to 13,000 gallons. All the plants are of modern design operating on the H.T.S.T. system, the total quantity of milk treated being about 27,000 gallons per day.

Pasteurised homogenised milk is processed at two of the dairies, one of which also pasteurises a limited quantity of Channel Islands milk.

The dairies concerned were regularly inspected by the County Health Inspector, 164 visits being made for the purpose and 218 samples of milk being taken at the plants. All of these satisfied the phosphatase test for efficiency of heat treatment. The processing plants were maintained in good condition, various routine renewals were carried out during the year and only minor matters required to be brought to the notice of dairy management.

The amount of farm milk brought in by bulk tanker collection continued to increase : one dairy is entirely supplied in this way and another almost completely so.

Once again it has to be recorded that successful prosecutions were instituted by district councils in the county against two of the dairies for milk supplied in bottles not thoroughly cleansed. In one case a bottle containing a quantity of cement attracted a fine of £2 and 5 guineas costs, and a "weathered" bottle which the mechanical washer had failed to cleanse satisfactorily cost the firm concerned £25.

In this connection and in an endeavour to keep bottle-washing installations up to full efficiency, washed bottles have in the past been taken from the plants and tested for bacteriological cleanliness, but during the year the local Public Health Laboratory found it necessary to withdraw this facility. Admittedly this was advisory work and not statutory control, but it was found useful and was in most cases appreciated by the dairy managers. Of 48 bottles tested during the first half of the year, only 3 failed to reach the accepted standard.

#### STERILISING PLANTS

Two plants were in operation for milk sterilising, one consisting of the conventional oven batch treatment, the other being an ultra-high-temperature plant working in conjunction with a continuous



in-bottle steriliser. The latter after ten years service was showing signs of deterioration, and replacement plant ordered in February was not forthcoming until the end of the year. In the meantime difficulty was experienced in keeping up a reasonable standard. At no time were failures of turbidity test registered, but spoilage did occur on occasions. In such circumstances a more stringent official test would have been welcome. Fifty-four visits were paid to the dairies during the year and 54 samples taken direct from the plants all satisfied the turbidity test.

#### SPECIFIED AREA

The Council as food and drugs authority are responsible for enforcement of the specified area scheme, which forbids the sale of milk otherwise than under one of the special designations, i.e. "Untreated", "Pasteurised" or "Sterilised." At no time have any serious contraventions occurred.

Exception is made as a last resort for the issue by the Ministry of a "consent" to a retailer to dispense with the requirements of the Order where there is no possibility either of the immediate grant of a producer-retailer licence or of an alternative supply of milk, and at the end of the year 4 such "consents" were in operation. The amount of milk represented by these was very small.

#### Milk in Schools Scheme

Contracts for the supply of school milk expired at the end of March and fresh tenders were obtained for a further three-year period. There are a number of schools for which tenders cannot be obtained and here a supply has to be negotiated by agreement with a local dealer or producer-retailer. It was found possible to reduce still further the number of schools receiving untreated milk which were three less than in 1967. Every effort was made to obtain Pasteurised milk but for a number of rural schools this was not available and an approved Untreated supply had to be accepted, sometimes in bulk, to obtain milk at all. Only one very isolated country school was without a supply of fresh milk and had to rely on re-constituted full cream dried milk. Pasteurised milk is supplied by 31 different dealers who have, however, only 6 different sources of supply. The following table shows the position as at 31st December, 1968. In making comparisons with previous years it has to be borne in mind that as a result of government policy secondary schools ceased to be supplied under the scheme as from September.

<i>Grade of Milk</i>	<i>No. of Schools</i>	<i>Percentage of Schools</i>	<i>Percentage of Pupils</i>
Pasteurised .. ..	269	91.4	97.87
Untreated .. ..	24	8.2	2.11
No Fresh Milk .. ..	1	0.4	0.02
	294	100.0	100.00



All sources of supply were subject to prior approval by the department and regular samples from all sources were taken for examination. Particular attention was paid to schools receiving raw milk and here routine testing for both tuberculosis and brucella infection was also carried out.

The following table shows the results obtained during 1968.

	Passed	Failed	Void	Total
<i>Untreated Milk</i>				
Methylene Blue Test ..	25	3	—	28
<i>Pasteurised Milk</i>				
Methylene Blue Test ..	153	13	—	166
Phosphatase Test .. ..	166	—	—	166

The number of keeping quality failures was comparable with results for preceding years. There was no evidence found in any of the samples of any milk infection.

The proportion of children in the schools supplied availing themselves of the service on a selected day in October was 92.3%. The sharp increase in this figure for the year was due to the elimination of the secondary schools where the uptake of milk has always been below the general average. In fact the disappearance of school milk seems to have been accepted with equanimity by these establishments.

## ICE CREAM

### Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations 1959

There was a further increase in the number of ice cream samples taken during the year by district councils, 485 samples being submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for methylene blue testing as compared with 433 the preceding year. The results continued to be satisfactory : 412 samples or 85% of the total were classified as Grade I and 28, or 6% as Grade II. The Ministry suggest that taken over a period, 50% should reach Grade I and 80% Grades I and II combined. Only 25 samples representing 5% of the total were reported as Grade IV or unsatisfactory. Ice lollies can be subjected to a similar test to that for drinking water and of 36 so examined only 2 failed to show a satisfactory state of sterility. Eleven districts submitted no samples during the year.

## LIQUID EGG

### Liquid Egg Pasteurisation Regulations 1963

Sixteen samples of treated liquid or frozen egg were taken during the year and all satisfied the alpha-amylase test for efficiency of heat treatment. There are no treatment plants actually in operation within the administrative county.

## SCHOOL SWIMMING POOLS

The Education Committee maintain 8 learner swimming pools at schools in the county. All are equipped with full water treatment plant, comprising diatomaceous earth filters and automatic dosing apparatus using liquid hypochlorite for sterilisation. Each pool is under the care of a full time swimming instructor who is also responsible for the plant operation. Routine supervision continued to be carried out by the County Health Inspector, who during the year made 81 inspections checking the free residual chlorine and pH of the water and examining the pool log books. Instructors are advised to maintain break-point chlorine conditions. Out of 20 samples of water taken, 4 failed to reach the " highly satisfactory " standard for swimming pool water and the necessary re-adjustments of plant etc. were attended to. The number of unsatisfactory samples is not a true indication of the standard of maintenance ; samples were only taken when conditions suggested the need for further investigation. If a satisfactorily high residual chlorine is evident, there should be no significant bacterial activity in the water. The small open-air fill-and-empty pool at Bellingham Camp Secondary School continued to be satisfactorily maintained when in use during the summer months.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

(Mr. C. L. ARLIDGE)

During the year the County Sampling Officers procured a total of 2,964 samples of articles of food and submitted them to examination for compliance with the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, the Preservative Regulations and the Labelling of Food Order, 1953.

The articles may be summarised as follows :—

<i>Article</i>	<i>No. taken</i>
Beer, Wines and Spirits .. .. .	59
Butter, Margarine, Lard, Cooking Fats, Cheese (including Processed Cheese) .. .. .	141
Drugs, Medicines and Household Medicaments ..	48
Fresh Fruit, Fresh Vegetables, Dried Fruit, Tinned Fruit and Vegetables .. .. .	114
Ice Cream .. .. .	22
Jams, Preserves, Honey and Jellies .. .. .	79
Milk and Cream .. .. .	1,766
Pickles, Sauces, Vinegar and Condiments .. ..	79
Sugar, Sugar Confectionery, Flour Confectionery, Chocolate, Chocolate Confectionery and Cereals ..	135
Tea, Coffee, Cocoa, Beverages, Minerals and Cordials..	146
Tinned Meats, Meat, Meat Products (including Sausages), Fish, Fish Products, Fish and Meat Pastes ..	211
Miscellaneous .. .. .	164
TOTAL .. .. .	2,964

### Samples Reported by the Public Analyst to be unsatisfactory

<i>Name of Article</i>	<i>Analyst's Report</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
Beef Sausages	Contained 350 ppm undeclared preservative .. .. .	Preservative notice to be exhibited in future. Firm cautioned.
White Coffee	This sample was an infusion of coffee devoid of milk .. ..	The absence of milk was due to a mechanical defect in the dispensing machine.
Pork Sausages	3% deficient in meat .. ..	Firm cautioned.
Fish Cakes	Contained 23% fish .. ..	Retailer sold both Fish Cakes and Potato Cakes. Customer supplied with wrong article. Vendor cautioned to label both articles.
Dried Non-fat Milk (Skimmed)	The term "Non-fat Milk" is not correctly applied to this article which contains 1.4% fat ..	In view of the universal usage of the term "Non-fat milk" for products of this nature, the manufacturers do not agree that this article is incorrectly described.



<i>Name of Article</i>	<i>Analyst's Report</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
Swiss Style Chocolate Cake Mixture	This sample consisted of an outer container with two inner packets. These inner packets did not bear a statement indicating the appropriate designation of their respective contents.	Manufacturers have undertaken to rectify their omission when the present containers are exhausted.
Cake Covering	Ingredients listed in incorrect order .. .. .	Manufacturers have given an undertaking to correctly label similar products in future.
Sponge Cake	The fat in this sample proved to be rancid .. .. .	Remainder of stock withdrawn from sale.
White Stilton Cheese	Contained 50% water. The Cheese Regulations prescribe a maximum of 46%. .. .. .	A longer drying out period to be allowed and a stricter analytical control to be carried out.
Butter Nuts	These biscuits contained only 1.4% of Butter Fat — an amount which does not justify the use of the word "Butter" in the description.	Unsatisfactory stocks withdrawn. Only butter fat to be used in future.
Ginger Wine Essence	Did not bear a list of the ingredients .. .. .	Manufacturers have agreed to amend the label to comply with the Regulations.
Rice	Contained a small quantity of soil pellets .. .. .	Importers obtained this Rice from Egypt where it is accepted that a small percentage of mudballs are to be found. Rice now being obtained from China which should overcome this difficulty. No further action necessary.
Processed Cheese	Should be described as "Medium Fat Processed Cheese" .. .. .	Description to be suitably amended.
Sweet Orange Crunch	Container not marked with statement of ingredients .. .. .	Manufacturers instructed to make necessary declaration of ingredients.
Butter Nuts	The presence of only 1.8% of butterfat does not justify the description "Butter Nuts" .. .. .	Manufacturers have agreed to withdraw all stocks from sale.
Homemade Grapefruit Marmalade	13.3% deficient in soluble solids 3% deficient in soluble solids..	Samples purchased at Women's Institute Stall at County Show. Producers advised to change their manufacturing processes.
Seville Marmalade		
Anchovy Paste	34% deficient in fish .. .. .	No action possible as manufacturers have gone into liquidation.

Whole Fruit	As the skins and seeds have been	Description now am-
Redcurrant Jam	removed, the description is	ended to Fresh Fruit
	inappropriate . . . . .	Redcurrant Jam.

### Prosecutions

As a result of a complaint received from the Matron of Earsdon Grange, concerning a loaf of bread supplied under contract by Carricks Ltd., the loaf was forwarded to the Public Analyst who reported that fourteen of the slices had large areas stained with rust and mineral oil. At the hearing of the proceedings against Messrs. Carricks, the latter brought Hunters The Bakers before the Court as the actual offenders, the bread having been baked by Messrs. Hunters, who pleaded guilty and were fined £20 0s. 0d. and ordered to pay £4 14s. 0d. costs.

Messrs. T. W. Bell & Sons, Dairy Farmers of West Chevington, were charged with having in their possession for sale for human consumption, milk to which water had been added. Churns of milk consigned to Ashington Co-operative Society on two consecutive days were found to contain a total of just over 9 gallons of water. Messrs. Bell were fined £20 0s. 0d. and ordered to pay £56 0s. 6d. in costs.

William Rutherford & Sons, Dairy Farmers at East Mill Hills Farm, Haydon Bridge, were charged with having in their possession for sale for human consumption, milk to which water had been added. A sample of milk taken from the farm milk bulk storage tank was found to contain 9.7% of added water. This was equivalent to 14½ gallons of water being added to the milk. Messrs. Rutherford pleaded guilty and were fined £15 0s. 0d. and ordered to pay £8 6s. 0d. costs.

Mrs. Sarah Murray, Manageress of the Robin Hood Inn at East Wallhouses, Stamfordham, was fined £20 0s. 0d. for selling whisky which had been diluted by the addition of 13.9% of water.

J. E. Baty & Sons, Dairy Farmers of North Acomb Farm, Stocksfield, pleaded guilty to having in their possession for human consumption milk, to which water had been added. The milk in a farm bulk storage tank was found to contain 3.5% of added water, this being equivalent to 4 gallons and 3 pints. A fine of £10 0s. 0d. was imposed with £18 16s. 0d. costs.

Mrs. Sarah Foster, the Licensee of the Blagdon Arms at Cramlington, pleaded guilty to displaying a label which falsely described certain food. A sample of whisky purchased from a bottle bearing a label which described the whisky as 70° proof, was found to contain 7.1% of extraneous water. A fine of £5 0s. 0d. was imposed and she was ordered to pay £4 14s. 0d. costs.

The West Wylam & Prudhoe Co-operative Society were charged with selling at their Corbridge shop, Beef Sausages which contained 1100 ppm of Sulphur Dioxide. The Preservative Regulations permit not more than 450 ppm. of Sulphur Dioxide. Enquiries showed that despite a notice, on a tin of seasoning clearly



indicating that no other preservative was to be added as the seasoning contained the required amount, a further quantity of Sulphur Dioxide was added during the mixing process. The Society pleaded guilty and were fined £30 0s. 0d.

Broomhill Equitable Industrial Co-operative Society were charged with selling Beef Sausages which contained preservative without notice of the presence of such preservative being given to the purchaser. The Society pleaded guilty and were fined £10 0s. 0d.

Robert Hawkshaw Ltd., Soft Drinks Manufacturers of Kingston upon Hull, were charged with selling Orange Squash devoid of added sugar, contrary to the Soft Drink Regulations, which require Orange Squash to contain a minimum of  $22\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of sugar in 10 gallons of Citrus Drink intended for consumption after dilution. The Public Analyst reported that the sweetening matter consisted of saccharin and calcium cyclamate. Investigations revealed that the unsatisfactory nature of the product had been brought to the notice of Messrs. Hawkshaw nearly two years ago and although they had introduced new labels for future consignments leaving their premises, no steps had been taken to re-label or recall supplies in the hands of wholesalers and retailers. The defendants pleaded guilty and were fined £100 0s. 0d. with £8 10s. 0d. costs.

Jacob Tait of Humbleton Mill, Wooler, pleaded not guilty to exposing for sale for human consumption 2 churns of milk to which 2 gallons of water had been added. Tait claimed that the water had been added by an unknown person, when the milk was left unattended. The defendant was found guilty and fined £15.

The number of samples adversely reported upon by the Public Analyst remains at a low level and in the case of the majority of such articles that were found to be unsatisfactory, the irregularities were of a minor nature. The worst features of adulteration now appear to be "things of the past." The main sources of complaint concern advertisements and illustrations.

The scrutiny of advertisements and labels has been extended as it has been found that in a number of instances illustrations, advertisements and labels attached to the goods, show considerable departures from the actual products.

The change over from personal service to self-service has been largely responsible for the enormous increase in the number of articles that are pre-packed at the places where they are produced. These silent salesmen have to make a visual impact on prospective customers and in order to make such impact the wrappers must attract attention. This object is achieved by skilful colour printing and astute packaging. Indeed the art of container making has been described as the ability to make one's own container look larger than those of one's competitors whilst actually holding less material.

In all cases investigated up to date of this report, the manufacturers have accepted the views of the department and made the necessary amendments to the advertisements and labels.





TABLES  
of  
STATISTICS  
1968

TABLE 1

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND

## POPULATION YEAR 1968

## BOROUGHs :

Berwick-upon-Tweed	..	..	..	..	..	11,280
Blyth	..	..	..	..	..	35,410
Morpeth	..	..	..	..	..	14,510
Wallsend	..	..	..	..	..	47,250
Whitley Bay	..	..	..	..	..	38,350
						<hr/> 146,800

## URBAN DISTRICTS :

Alnwick	..	..	..	..	..	7,890
Amble	..	..	..	..	..	4,990
Ashington	..	..	..	..	..	26,080
Bedlingtonshire	..	..	..	..	..	30,250
Gosforth	..	..	..	..	..	27,520
Hexham	..	..	..	..	..	10,000
Longbenton	..	..	..	..	..	48,650
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea	..	..	..	..	..	9,960
Newburn	..	..	..	..	..	34,100
Prudhoe	..	..	..	..	..	10,730
Seaton Valley	..	..	..	..	..	28,470
						<hr/> 238,640

## RURAL DISTRICTS :

Alnwick	..	..	..	..	..	12,360
Belford	..	..	..	..	..	5,100
Bellingham	..	..	..	..	..	5,020
Castle Ward	..	..	..	..	..	36,350
Glendale	..	..	..	..	..	6,550
Haltwhistle	..	..	..	..	..	6,900
Hexham	..	..	..	..	..	20,560
Morpeth	..	..	..	..	..	17,400
Norham and Islandshires	..	..	..	..	..	3,810
Rothbury	..	..	..	..	..	5,200
						<hr/> 119,250

TOTALS	..	..	..	..	..	<hr/> 504,690
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TABLE 2

POPULATION—DISTRIBUTION FOR PURPOSES OF  
AREA ADMINISTRATION

AREA			POPULATION
North No. 1	..	..	26,740
North No. 2	..	..	30,440
Central	..	..	67,950
East	..	..	65,660
South	..	..	111,490
South-East	..	..	115,470
West	..	..	39,690
Wallsend	..	..	47,250
TOTAL	..	..	504,690

TABLE 3.

## VITAL AND MORTALITY STATISTICS.

YEAR.			Birth rate per 1,000 living.	General death rate per 1,000 living.	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births.	Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 living.	Death Rate from Cancer (excluding Leukaemia Aleukaemia) per 1,000 living.
1940	..	..	15.00	12.44	59.00	0.55	1.58
1941	..	..	15.07	12.84	74.00	0.51	1.61
1942	..	..	16.39	11.59	54.00	0.39	1.59
1943	..	..	17.61	12.50	56.00	0.51	1.72
1944	..	..	19.87	12.16	48.00	0.50	1.86
1945	..	..	17.58	12.24	50.00	0.47	1.84
1946	..	..	19.74	11.98	48.00	0.49	1.73
1947	..	..	20.66	12.14	43.00	0.44	1.77
1948	..	..	18.04	11.13	40.00	0.43	1.74
1949	..	..	17.52	11.92	36.00	0.37	1.82
1950	..	..	16.69	12.24	36.60	0.28	1.75
1951	..	..	16.46	12.58	32.49	0.24	1.82
1952	..	..	16.08	11.25	29.37	0.17	1.92
1953	..	..	16.90	11.78	28.46	0.16	1.89
1954	..	..	16.26	12.23	27.03	0.15	1.95
1955	..	..	16.34	12.06	26.75	0.15	1.92
1956	..	..	16.51	11.87	25.80	0.11	1.90
1957	..	..	16.68	11.49	23.51	0.06	1.87
1958	..	..	17.08	12.05	24.03	0.06	2.03
1959	..	..	17.23	11.56	23.58	0.04	1.90
1960	..	..	16.66	11.80	20.28	0.05	1.95
1961	..	..	16.75	11.97	19.75	0.06	1.93
1962	..	..	17.20	12.23	23.28	0.05	2.08
1963	..	..	17.13	12.52	20.79	0.05	1.99
1964	..	..	16.80	11.76	20.11	0.03	2.10
1965	..	..	16.13	12.38	16.05	0.03	2.15
1966	..	..	15.08	12.29	20.10	0.02	2.14
1967	..	..	14.76	11.63	17.61	0.02	1.99
1968	..	..	14.21	12.70	16.46	0.01	2.35

TABLE 4.  
GENERAL STATISTICS.

	NUMBERS			RATES		
	Boro's and Urban Districts.	Rural Districts.	Total for County.	Boro's and Urban Districts.	Rural Districts.	Total for County.
Population .. ..	385,440	119,250	504,690			
Births (Live) .. ..	5,725	1,446	7,171	14.85	12.13	14.21
Legitimate .. ..	5,376	1,380	6,756	13.95	11.57	13.39
Illegitimate.. ..	349	66	415	0.91	0.55	0.82
				(per 1,000 population)		
Births (Still) .. ..	82	17	99	14.12	11.62	13.62
Legitimate .. ..	79	17	96	14.48	12.17	14.01
Illegitimate.. ..	3	—	3	8.52	—	7.18
				(per 1,000 registered births)		
Births (Live and Still)	5,807	1,463	7,270	15.07	12.27	14.40
Legitimate .. ..	5,455	1,397	6,852	14.15	11.72	13.57
Illegitimate.. ..	352	66	418	0.91	0.55	0.83
				(per 1,000 population)		
Deaths (Total) .. ..	4,770	1,642	6,412	12.38	13.77	12.70
				(per 1,000 population)		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of Age	98	20	118	17.12	13.83	16.46
Legitimate .. ..	92	19	111	17.11	13.77	16.43
Illegitimate.. ..	6	1	7	17.19	15.15	16.87
				(per 1,000 live births)		
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of Age	67	16	83	11.70	11.06	11.57
Legitimate .. ..	64	15	79	11.90	10.87	11.69
Illegitimate.. ..	3	1	4	8.60	15.15	9.64
				(per 1,000 live births)		
Deaths of Infants under 1 week of Age	54	14	68	9.43	9.68	9.48
Legitimate .. ..	51	13	64	9.49	9.42	9.47
Illegitimate.. ..	3	1	4	8.60	15.15	9.64
				(per 1,000 live births)		
Maternal Deaths .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
				(per 1,000 births —live and still)		

	Births	Deaths
Comparability Factors .. ..	1.00	1.03
(Administrative County)		
Rates per 1,000 Population after adjustment .. ..	14.21	13.08

TABLE 5.

## BIRTHS (LIVE AND STILL).

COUNTY DISTRICTS	LIVE.					STILL.					Total Births— Live and Still.
	Leg.		Illeg.		Total	Leg.		Illeg.		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		
Boroughs :											
Berwick .. ..	111	106	8	4	229	1	—	—	—	1	230
Blyth .. ..	253	228	18	16	515	4	3	1	1	9	524
Morpeth .. ..	93	81	8	5	187	2	1	—	—	3	190
Wallsend .. ..	342	336	48	21	747	10	6	—	—	16	763
Whitley Bay .. ..	202	237	18	20	477	4	4	—	—	8	485
Urban Districts :											
Alnwick .. ..	51	42	2	2	97	1	—	—	—	1	98
Amble.. ..	56	36	2	3	97	—	—	—	—	—	97
Ashington .. ..	209	214	12	9	444	3	4	—	—	7	451
Bedlingtonshire .. ..	192	216	16	13	437	7	3	1	—	11	448
Gosforth .. ..	182	163	8	10	363	2	2	—	—	4	367
Hexham .. ..	71	64	2	4	141	—	—	—	—	—	141
Longbenton .. ..	295	278	18	15	606	4	6	—	—	10	616
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea .. ..	67	64	5	1	137	1	1	—	—	2	139
Newburn .. ..	284	272	15	12	583	1	2	—	—	3	586
Prudhoe .. ..	58	73	4	3	138	1	—	—	—	1	139
Seaton Valley.. ..	255	245	12	15	527	2	4	—	—	6	533
Rural Districts :											
Alnwick .. ..	84	93	5	3	185	3	3	—	—	6	191
Belford .. ..	31	23	1	3	58	—	—	—	—	—	58
Bellingham .. ..	30	48	1	1	80	—	—	—	—	—	80
Castle Ward .. ..	183	174	8	9	374	2	2	—	—	4	378
Glendale .. ..	30	26	2	—	58	—	—	—	—	—	58
Haltwhistle .. ..	44	26	—	3	73	—	—	—	—	—	73
Hexham .. ..	149	120	5	7	281	—	2	—	—	2	283
Morpeth .. ..	123	107	7	6	243	4	1	—	—	5	248
Norham and Islandshires .. ..	13	9	1	1	24	—	—	—	—	—	24
Rothbury .. ..	34	33	1	2	70	—	—	—	—	—	70
TOTALS .. ..	3442	3314	227	188	7171	52	44	2	1	99	7270



TABLE 6.

## INFANT DEATHS.

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	Live Births	FIRST YEAR		FIRST MONTH		FIRST WEEK	
		Infant Deaths under 1 year	Infant Mortal- ity Rate per 1000 live births	Infant Deaths under 4 weeks of age	Death Rate per 1000 live births	Infant Deaths under 1 week of age	Death Rate per 1000 live births
<i>Boroughs :</i>							
Berwick ..	229	6	26.20	5	21.83	4	17.47
Blyth ..	515	11	21.36	7	13.59	6	11.65
Morpeth ..	187	2	10.70	1	5.35	1	5.35
Wallsend ..	747	10	13.39	8	10.71	7	9.37
Whitley Bay ..	477	10	20.96	7	14.68	7	14.68
<i>Urban Districts :</i>							
Alnwick ..	97	1	10.31	1	10.31	—	—
Amble ..	97	2	20.62	2	20.62	2	20.62
Ashington ..	444	6	13.51	4	9.01	3	6.76
Bedlingtonshire	437	3	6.86	1	2.29	1	2.29
Gosforth ..	363	3	8.26	2	5.51	1	2.75
Hexham ..	141	5	35.46	5	35.46	5	35.46
Longbenton ..	606	9	14.85	7	11.55	7	11.55
Newbiggin-by- the-Sea ..	137	5	36.50	3	21.90	1	7.30
Newburn ..	583	13	22.30	7	12.01	3	5.14
Prudhoe ..	138	2	14.49	—	—	—	—
Seaton Valley ..	527	10	18.98	7	13.28	6	11.39
<i>Rural Districts :</i>							
Alnwick ..	185	2	10.81	2	10.81	2	10.81
Belford ..	58	1	17.24	1	17.24	1	17.24
Bellingham ..	80	—	—	—	—	—	—
Castle Ward ..	374	5	13.37	5	13.37	4	10.70
Glendale ..	58	2	34.48	2	34.48	2	34.48
Haltwhistle ..	73	2	27.40	—	—	—	—
Hexham ..	281	1	3.56	1	3.56	1	3.56
Morpeth ..	243	4	16.46	3	12.35	2	8.23
Norham and Islandshires ..	24	2	83.33	2	83.33	2	83.33
Rothbury ..	70	1	14.29	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS ..</b>	<b>7 171</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>16.46</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>11.57</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>9.48</b>

TABLE 7.

## CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS (Year 1968) ACCORDING TO DISEASE

	BOROUGH AND URBAN DISTRICTS			RURAL DISTRICTS			TOTAL COUNTY		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases .. ..	3	3	6	—	1	1	3	4	7
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .. ..	4	1	5	1	—	1	5	1	6
Other Tuberculosis incl. late effects .. ..	4	—	4	1	—	1	5	—	5
Meningococcal Infection ..	3	—	3	—	—	—	3	—	3
Measles .. ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Syphilis and its Sequelae ..	3	—	3	—	—	—	3	—	3
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .. ..	4	4	8	1	—	1	5	4	9
Malignant Neoplasm—									
Stomach .. ..	73	64	137	20	12	32	93	76	169
Lung Bronchus ..	196	44	240	48	14	62	244	58	302
Breast .. ..	—	84	84	—	25	25	—	109	109
Uterus .. ..	—	32	32	—	7	7	—	39	39
Leukaemia .. ..	13	8	21	8	1	9	21	9	30
Other Malignant Neoplasms etc. .. ..	213	202	415	89	48	137	302	250	552
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms .. ..	5	7	12	—	2	2	5	9	14
Diabetes Mellitus .. ..	7	19	26	4	9	13	11	28	39
Avitaminoses etc. .. ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	5	2	7	1	2	3	6	4	10
Anaemias .. ..	5	4	9	1	4	5	6	8	14
Other Diseases of Blood etc.	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2
Mental Disorders .. ..	13	9	22	1	2	3	14	11	25
Meningitis .. ..	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	1	2
Other Diseases of Nervous System etc. .. ..	37	27	64	13	11	24	50	38	88
Active Rheumatic Fever ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease .. ..	20	29	49	3	10	13	23	39	62
Hypertensive Disease ..	35	55	90	13	16	29	48	71	119
Ischaemic Heart Disease ..	736	557	1293	268	189	457	1004	746	1750
Other Forms of Heart Disease	103	139	242	31	64	95	134	203	337
Cerebrovascular Disease ..	275	356	631	128	173	301	403	529	932
Other Diseases of Circulatory System .. ..	87	125	212	40	33	73	127	158	285
Influenza .. ..	10	20	30	9	8	17	19	28	47
Pneumonia .. ..	108	184	292	40	43	83	148	227	375

Table 7.—Classification of Deaths (Continued)

	BOROUGH AND URBAN DISTRICTS			RURAL DISTRICTS			TOTAL COUNTY		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Bronchitis and Emphysema	208	59	267	52	15	67	260	74	346
Asthma .. .. .	5	9	14	1	1	2	6	10	16
Other Diseases of Respir- atory System .. ..	28	22	50	2	8	10	30	30	60
Peptic Ulcer .. ..	28	10	38	8	4	12	36	14	50
Appendicitis .. ..	1	2	3	—	1	1	1	3	4
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia .. .. .	9	12	21	3	5	8	12	17	29
Cirrhosis of Liver .. ..	12	8	20	4	3	7	16	11	27
Other Diseases of Digestive System .. .. .	21	22	43	5	7	12	26	29	55
Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	12	13	25	4	3	7	16	16	32
Hyperplasia of Prostate ..	12	—	12	2	—	2	14	—	14
Other Diseases Genito- Urinary System .. ..	17	16	33	1	6	7	18	22	40
Diseases of Skin Subcutaneous Tissue ..	3	1	4	—	2	2	3	3	6
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System .. .. .	4	7	11	1	5	6	5	12	17
Congenital Anomalies ..	7	25	32	7	3	10	14	28	42
Birth Injury Difficult Labour etc... ..	14	11	25	7	1	8	21	12	33
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality .. .. .	9	9	18	3	1	4	12	10	22
Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions .. .. .	10	24	34	3	5	8	13	29	42
Motor Vehicle Accidents ..	28	11	39	12	5	17	40	16	56
All other Accidents .. ..	48	59	107	16	30	46	64	89	153
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries .. .. .	11	8	19	7	2	9	18	10	28
All other External Causes ..	4	7	11	1	2	3	5	9	14
TOTALS .. .. .	2456	2314	4770	859	783	1642	3315	3097	6412



TABLE 8.

DEATH RATES AND DEATHS FROM CANCER  
(excluding Leukaemia and Aleukaemia)

YEARS 1940 to 1968.

Year	Population	Number of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Population
1940	411,400	648	1.58
1941	407,120	656	1.61
1942	398,300	635	1.59
1943	397,740	686	1.72
1944	390,320	725	1.86
1945	392,510	725	1.84
1946	412,080	712	1.73
1947	417,510	740	1.77
1948	431,850	750	1.74
1949	436,370	796	1.82
1950	438,310	768	1.75
1951	437,600	797	1.82
1952	438,300	843	1.92
1953	440,600	836	1.89
1954	445,900	871	1.95
1955	453,000	870	1.92
1956	459,800	874	1.90
1957	463,900	866	1.87
1958	470,300	954	2.03
1959	475,000	904	1.90
1960	482,480	944	1.95
1961	480,530	929	1.93
1962	487,170	1014	2.08
1963	491,200	977	1.99
1964	494,440	1039	2.10
1965	498,430	1072	2.15
1966	501,380	1073	2.14
1967	504,200	1004	1.99
1968	504,690	1185	2.35

TABLE 9  
**TUBERCULOSIS**  
STATISTICS—YEARS 1941 to 1968.

YEAR	NOTIFICATIONS			DEATHS			DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION		
	Respir- atory	Other Forms	All Forms	Respir- atory	Other Forms	All Forms	Respir- atory	Other Forms	All Forms
1941	346	116	462	208	51	259	0.51	0.13	0.63
1942	298	116	414	156	36	192	0.39	0.09	0.48
1943	458	125	583	202	50	252	0.51	0.13	0.64
1944	506	134	640	195	43	238	0.50	0.11	0.61
1945	608	127	735	186	47	233	0.47	0.12	0.59
1946	454	116	570	200	42	242	0.49	0.10	0.59
1947	439	125	564	186	39	225	0.44	0.09	0.53
1948	442	137	579	187	32	219	0.43	0.07	0.50
1949	506	104	610	160	26	186	0.37	0.06	0.43
1950	519	116	635	124	26	150	0.28	0.06	0.34
1951	523	87	610	105	18	123	0.24	0.04	0.28
1952	519	91	610	77	15	92	0.17	0.04	0.21
1953	480	111	591	71	12	83	0.16	0.03	0.19
1954	556	101	657	66	7	73	0.15	0.01	0.16
1955	564	79	643	67	8	75	0.15	0.02	0.17
1956	399	68	467	50	5	55	0.11	0.01	0.12
1957	356	69	425	26	7	33	0.06	0.01	0.07
1958	340	57	397	28	4	32	0.06	0.01	0.07
1959	309	35	344	20	4	24	0.04	0.01	0.05
1960	330	37	367	25	1	26	0.05	0.002	0.05
1961	284	49	333	27	4	31	0.06	0.008	0.06
1962	246	34	280	23	3	26	0.05	0.006	0.06
1963	224	36	260	24	5	29	0.05	0.01	0.06
1964	181	21	202	16	3	19	0.03	0.006	0.04
1965	181	28	209	17	1	18	0.03	0.002	0.04
1966	131	20	131	13	2	15	0.02	0.001	0.03
1967	105	16	121	13	1	14	0.02	0.002	0.03
1968	84	24	108	6	5	11	0.01	0.01	0.02

TABLE 10  
NOTIFICATIONS AND MORTALITY AT SPECIFIED AGE PERIODS  
DURING THE YEAR 1968.

AGE PERIODS				* NEW CASES						DEATHS					
				Respiratory			Non- Respiratory			Respiratory			Non- Respiratory		
				M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
0— .. ..	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— .. ..	..	..	..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5— .. ..	..	..	..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15— .. ..	..	..	..	18	23	41	6	10	16	1	—	1	1	—	1
45— .. ..	..	..	..	10	13	23	2	4	6	2	—	2	1	—	1
65 and upwards..	..	..	..	14	4	18	—	2	2	2	1	3	3	—	3
TOTALS .. ..	..	..	..	43	41	84	8	16	24	5	1	6	5	—	5

\* Includes new cases coming to the knowledge of the County Medical Officer other than by formal notification.

TABLE 11.  
**CARE AND AFTER-CARE.**

WORK OF THE SOCIAL WORKER

Home Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	612
Sanatorium Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	328
Seen at Chest Clinics	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	849

Details of help given :—

After-Care Sub-Committees :	Extra nourishment	..	..	66
	Bedding and clothing	..	..	3
	Travelling expenses	..	..	26
	Other help	..	..	42
Department of Health and Social Security :	Extra nourishment	..	..	23
	Bedding and clothing	..	..	12
	Travelling expenses	..	..	8
	Allowances	..	..	38
	Other help	..	..	7

Resettlement :—

To Disablement Resettlement Officer	..	..	..	..	23
To Government Training Centre or Industrial Rehabilitation Unit	..	..	..	..	6
Commenced work	..	..	..	..	10

Help for cases was also obtained from other sources including Nursing Care Committees, Home Help, Housing, Children's Department, National Society for Cancer Relief, Marie Curie Foundation, Chest and Heart Association, Dr. Barnardo's Homes, W.R.V.S. and from a number of other voluntary services and societies.



TABLE 12.

CHIROPODY

SERVICE	Number of Patients Treated	NUMBER OF TREATMENTS											TOTAL
		DOMICILIARY						CLINICS					
		Expectant Mothers	Elderly		Handicapped		Expectant Mothers	Elderly		Handicapped			
			M	F	M	F		M	F				
County Chiropodists	4960	2	2429	8327	298	595	11	1781	7140	3	17	20303	
County Welfare Homes	358	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1817	
Voluntary Services	3347	—	857	2935	—	—	—	2011	8160	—	—	13963	
Totals : 1968	8665	2	3286	11262	298	595	11	3792	15300	3	17	36333	
Totals : 1967	7822	2	2543	8581	449	846	8	3309	13577	56	113	31423	

TABLE 13  
Attendances at Ante-Natal Relaxation Clinics

CLINIC	ATTENDANCES		No. of Half-day Sessions
	First Visits	Re-Visits	
*Alnwick .. .. .	56	362	48
*Ashington .. .. .	69	359	44
*Bedlington (Guide Post)	37	155	50
*Bedlington Station ..	15	95	43
*Blyth .. .. .	123	598	45
*Chapel House .. .. .	89	271	46
*Cramlington .. .. .	55	163	48
*Gosforth .. .. .	55	268	46
† Haltwhistle .. .. .	31	116	24
*Hexham .. .. .	64	263	47
*Longbenton .. .. .	63	275	49
† Lynemouth .. .. .	10	55	37
*§ Monkseaton .. .. .	9	60	10
*Morpeth .. .. .	49	416	51
*Newbiggin-by-the-Sea ..	24	116	42
§ *Newbiggin Hall .. ..	8	53	16
*Ponteland .. .. .	48	206	49
*† Prudhoe (West Wylam)	34	117	37
*Shiremoor .. .. .	26	176	45
*Seaton Delaval .. .. .	37	143	45
† South Broomhill .. ..	26	75	25
*Throckley .. .. .	31	189	43
*Tweedmouth .. .. .	61	267	47
† Wallsend .. .. .	116	455	49
† ‡ x West Wylam .. .. .	9	28	10
† Widdrington .. .. .	16	75	33
† Willington Quay .. ..	58	227	48
*Whitley Bay .. .. .	68	477	46
*Woodlands Park .. ..	48	211	49
TOTALS .. .. .	1,335	6,271	1,172

\* These clinics are held by Physiotherapists

† These clinics are held by Health Visitors.

‡ These clinics are held by Midwives.

§ Monkseaton Clinic commenced October 10th, 1968.

Newbiggin Hall Clinic commenced August 7th, 1968.

x West Wylam ceased to operate from March 29th, 1968.

TABLE 14.

### Dental Services for Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Children under 5 years

PART A.—ATTENDANCES AND TREATMENT :

Number of Visits for Treatment During Year :

	Children 0—4 (incl.)	Expectant and Nursing Mothers
First Visit .. .. .	1,714	486
Subsequent Visits .. .. .	1,930	1,584
TOTAL VISITS	3,644	1,970
Number of Additional Courses of Treatment other than the First Course commen- ced during the year ..	248	47
Treatment provided during the year —		
Number of Fillings .. .. .	2,296	1,131
Teeth Filled .. .. .	2,046	976
Teeth Extracted .. .. .	2,265	969
General Anaesthetics given ..	649	97
Emergency Visits by Patients	64	30
Patients X-Rayed .. .. .	16	89
Patients Treated by Scaling and/or Removal of Stains from the teeth (Prophy- laxis) .. .. .	405	374
Teeth Otherwise Conserved ..	730	—
Teeth Root Filled .. .. .	—	5
Inlays .. .. .	—	4
Crowns .. .. .	—	12
Number of Courses of Treat- ment completed during the Year .. .. .	1,959	503

PART B.—PROSTHETICS :

Patients Supplied with Full Upper or Full Lower (First Time) ..	91
Patients Supplied with Other Dentures .. .. .	77
Number of Dentures Supplied ..	265



## PART C. ANAESTHETICS :

General Anaesthetics Admin-  
istered by Dental Officers .. .. Nil

## PART D. INSPECTIONS :

	Children 0 — 4 (incl.)	Expectant and Nursing Mothers
Number of Patients given First Inspections During year .. ..	A. 3,386	D. 497
Number of Patients in A and D above who required Treatment ..	B. 1,810	E. 494
Number of Patients in B and E above who were offered Treatment	C. 1,775	F. 490

## PART E. SESSIONS

*Number of Dental Officer Sessions (i.e. Equivalent  
Complete Half Days) Devoted to Maternity and  
Child Welfare Patients :*

For Treatment .. .. 800  
For Health Education .. .. 22

TABLE 15.  
MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING SERVICE  
MIDWIFERY

Year	Nurses and Midwives Employed	Private Midwives In County	Attended by Midwives	Attended by Private Midwives	Number of Patients Delivered in Hospitals and Other Institutions but Discharged and Attended by Midwives Before Tenth Day	Number of Patients Delivered in Hospitals and Other Institutions but Discharged and Attended by Private Midwives before Tenth Day	Puerperal Pyrexia
1964	120	12	1,469	112	5,130	14	3
1965	126	8	1,144	109	5,435	14	6
1966	127	10	929	127	5,366	13	1
1967	126	3	707	69	5,746	4	2
1968	127	2	422	1	5,974	3	3

GENERAL NURSING

Year	New Cases	Total Visits	Number of Children Under 5 Years	Number of Old Persons Over 65 Years	Advisory Visits to the Aged
1964	10,201	265,526	546	4,880	10,685
1965	10,782	272,389	457	5,152	10,680
1966	11,164	282,587	461	5,305	11,944
1967	11,990	294,251	543	6,148	13,422
1968	14,304	318,665	701	6,680	14,939

TABLE 16.

## VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Sub Committee Area.	DIPHTHERIA					WHOOPING COUGH					TETANUS					POLIOMYELITIS						
	Children Born in Years :—																					
	1968	1967	1966	1965	1961-64	Others under 16 yrs.	Total	1968	1967	1966	1965	1961-64	Others under 16 yrs.	Total	1968	1967	1966	1965	1961-64	Others under 16 yrs.	Total	
Completed Primary Courses :																						
North No. 1	31	186	14	6	3	1	241	31	185	14	14	6	3	239	31	186	14	14	6	3	1	241
North No. 2	55	192	18	35	42	5	347	55	191	16	18	35	42	344	55	193	18	18	35	42	6	349
Central	100	593	29	13	72	41	848	98	588	28	29	13	83	760	98	593	29	29	13	83	226	1042
East	63	454	11	5	10	20	563	63	454	11	11	5	10	545	63	454	11	11	5	10	266	809
South	194	811	42	4	73	186	1310	194	802	41	42	5	76	1050	194	812	42	42	5	76	257	1386
South East	184	813	39	16	16	22	1090	182	805	36	39	16	17	1050	184	813	39	39	16	17	101	1170
West	21	212	2	3	5	5	248	21	208	2	2	3	6	237	21	212	2	2	3	6	20	264
Wallsend	33	246	18	5	169	4	475	33	246	18	19	5	170	310	33	246	19	19	5	170	7	480
TOTALS	681	3507	173	87	390	284	5122	677	3479	166	174	88	407	4535	679	3509	174	174	88	407	884	5741
1967 Totals	2634	3699	282	100	476	426	7717	2627	3764	276	282	103	518	6916	2631	3798	282	282	103	518	1742	9074

## Completed Primary Courses :

## Reinforcing Doses :

North No. 1	—	9	91	48	288	70	506	—	9	44	8	64	12	137	—	9	91	48	291	96	535
North No. 2	—	35	248	65	375	66	789	—	17	144	50	111	7	329	—	37	250	67	386	136	876
Central	—	41	674	86	991	384	2176	—	40	642	74	118	5	879	—	41	675	89	1004	278	2087
East	—	9	478	92	880	448	1907	—	7	456	81	139	9	692	—	9	478	96	895	535	2013
South	—	53	953	215	1307	332	2860	—	45	903	188	321	26	1483	—	56	955	218	1313	846	3388
South East	—	25	1026	190	1553	17	2811	—	24	1009	172	335	—	1540	—	24	1008	190	1540	37	2799
West	—	4	223	48	287	110	672	—	4	191	40	84	7	326	—	4	223	48	295	168	738
Wallsend	—	—	69	45	581	34	729	—	—	69	45	13	3	130	—	—	69	46	582	416	1113
TOTALS	—	176	3762	789	6262	1461	12450	—	146	3458	658	1185	69	5516	—	180	3749	802	6306	2512	13549
1967 Totals	15	217	4338	883	7025	4610	17088	10	183	4046	770	1449	286	6744	17	220	4340	884	7033	3704	16198



TABLE 17  
AMBULANCE SERVICE

## MILEAGE

SERVICE	North No. 1	North No. 2	Central	East	South East	South	Wallsend	West	TOTAL
Direct .. ..	97,109	77,139	290 533	191,916	186,745	384,004	106,929	—	1,334,456
British Red Cross Society.. ..	100,086	—	—	—	—	—	—	140,256	240,342
St. John Ambulance Brigade .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	65,624	65,624
Agents .. ..	—	67,489	1,612	16,824	—	—	26,929	192	113,046
Total Ambulances ..	197,195	144,628	292,165	208,740	186,745	384,004	133,919	206,072	1,753,468
Ambulance Car Service.. ..	65,587	2,716	38,450	—	—	55,778	—	112,554	275,085
TOTAL SERVICE.. ..	262,782	147,344	330,615	208,740	186,745	439,782	133,919	318,626	2,028,553

TABLE 18.

## AMBULANCE SERVICE STATISTICS.

STATIONS	VEHICLES	JOURNEYS	PATIENTS	MILEAGE
Alnwick ..	3	1,740	5,854	77,139
Ashington ..	6	6,452	20,783	120,562
Bedlington ..	5	3,440	15,682	98,484
Berwick ..	3	1,845	7,295	97,109
Blyth ..	4	3,622	14,059	93,432
Broomhill ..	3	1,559	7,791	79,940
Morpeth ..	4	2,691	11,926	90,051
Prudhoe ..	1	715	3,733	22,917
Seaton Delaval ..	4	2,855	11,327	88,139
Throckley ..	5	4,605	24,439	148,106
Wallsend ..	4	6,124	23,058	106,990
Whitley Bay ..	4	4,396	14,936	98,606
Wideopen ..	7	7,129	33,582	212,981

*Agency Services*

Smith's,				
Rothbury ..	2	1,150	3,961	67,489
British Red Cross				
Society ..	9	4,630	22,255	240,342
St. John Ambul-				
ance Brigade ..	1	1,819	7,466	65,624
Henderson,				
Alston ..	1	10	15	192
Private 'Bus				
Operators ..	2	1,146	8,108	45,365
	68	55,928	236,270	1,753,468
Car Operators ..	49	5,858	27,474	275,085

## DETAILS OF PERSONS CARRIED.

Year	Accident and Emergency Stretcher Cases	Accident and Emergency Other Cases	Treatment including Maternity Cases	Others	Total Patients Carried	Relatives Carried	Total No. of Persons Carried
1961	5,227	6,134	181,323	2,778	195,462	62,987	258,449
1962	5,139	5,825	179,549	4,483	194,996	63,011	258,007
1963	5,536	5,777	190,566	4,110	205,989	64,656	270,645
1964	5,972	5,563	193,735	5,409	210,679	64,164	274,843
1965	6,090	5,530	191,870	7,396	210,886	60,561	271,447
1966	6,000	5,264	199,397	7,938	218,599	57,776	276,375
1967	6,022	5,678	206,121	8,833	226,654	57,137	283,791
1968	6,361	5,610	215,130	9,169	236,270	56,653	292,923

TABLE 19.  
HOME HELP SERVICE.

Area.	Number of cases assisted.		Home Helps employed at 31st December.	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
North No. 1 .. ..	—	165	—	59
North No. 2 .. ..	—	255	—	74
East .. ..	—	773	—	131
Central .. ..	—	617	1	129
South .. ..	2	954	—	212
South-East .. ..	1	1,165	1	222
West .. ..	1	350	—	122
Wallsend .. ..	—	481	—	141
TOTALS .. ..	4	4,760	2	1090

TYPES OF CASE ASSISTED.

	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Total for 1967
Confinement .. ..	3	76	79	128
Acute Illness .. ..	1	309	310	351
Old Age and Chronic Illness .. ..	—	4,269	4,269	4,146
Blind .. ..	—	75	75	78
Tuberculosis .. ..	—	19	19	28
Mentally Disordered ..	—	8	8	6
Problem cases including children in absence of mother ..	—	4	4	11
TOTALS .. ..	4	4,760	4,764	4,728

The number of Home Helps employed compared with last year was :

	Full-time	Part-time	Total
31st December, 1968 .. ..	2	1,090	1,092
31st December, 1967 .. ..	2	1,052	1,054



TABLE 20.

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.

Number of mentally ill patients dealt with by Mental Welfare Officers under the Mental Health Act, 1959 :—

	Male	Female	Total
Admitted for Observation (Section 25) .. .. .	21	46	67
Admitted for Treatment (Section 26) .. .. .	26	32	58
Admitted for Observation in cases of Emergency (Section 29) .. .. .	53	77	130
	100	155	255

## SUMMARY OF VISITS MADE BY MENTAL WELFARE OFFICERS.

District.	Population (Estimated)	Subnormal and Severely Subnormal	Mental Illness	Social Welfare	Total
Alnwick .. .. .	37,240	153	458	277	888
Ashington .. .. .	119,870	772	1,198	927	2,897
Berwick .. .. .	26,740	210	523	192	925
Blyth .. .. .	73,760	724	950	1,437	3,111
Hexham .. .. .	53,210	309	496	576	1,381
South Northumberland	146,620	1,199	1,648	890	3,737
Wallsend .. .. .	47,250	257	678	202	1,137
	504,690	3,624	5,951	4,501	14,076

TABLE 21.  
NUMBER OF PERSONS UNDER LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY CARE AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1968.

	Mentally Ill				Elderly mentally infirm		Psychopathic				Subnormal				Severely Subnormal				Total
	Under age 16		16 and over		M.	F.	Under age 16		16 and over		Under age 16		16 and over		Under age 16		16 and over		
	M.	F.	M.	F.			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
(a) Total Number ...	—	—	128	146	26	67	—	—	5	1	15	9	68	96	135	109	214	208	1227
(b) Attending training centre or industrial units ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	3	47	34	103	83	66	63	407
(c) Awaiting entry to training centre or industrial units	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	5	9	14	—	1	31
(d) Attending day Hospitals	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	1	—	7	6	6	2	19	9	15	3	98
(e) Receiving home visits and not included in (b) (c) and (d) ...	—	—	107	135	26	67	—	—	2	—	4	—	14	55	4	3	133	141	691

TABLE 22.

# WELFARE OF BLIND AND OTHER HANDICAPPED PERSONS

## REGISTER OF BLIND PERSONS.

Total — 31st December, 1967 .. .. .	755
Names added to register :—	
New cases .. .. .	86
New cases transferred from register of Partially Sighted .. .. .	13 99
Transfers In .. .. .	21
	— 120
	875
Names removed from register :—	
Deaths .. .. .	92
Decertified .. .. .	5
Transfers out .. .. .	10
	— 107
Total — 31st December, 1968 .. .. .	768

## REGISTER OF PARTIALLY SIGHTED—

Total — 31st December, 1967 .. .. .	254
Names added to register :—	
New cases .. .. .	50
Transferred from register of blind .. .. .	50
Transfers In .. .. .	6
	— 56
	310
Names removed from register :—	
Deaths .. .. .	23
Transfers to register of Blind .. .. .	13
Transfers Out .. .. .	10
Decertified .. .. .	3
	— 49
Total — 31st December, 1968 .. .. .	261

## BLIND WELFARE OFFICERS VISITS—

Social visits (blind) .. .. .	5,690
Social visits (partially sighted) .. .. .	931
To give lessons .. .. .	327
To investigate new cases .. .. .	189
To accompany patients to hospital, etc. .. .. .	55
Special visits .. .. .	1,597
To homes and hospitals .. .. .	501
Conveyance to clubs .. .. .	506
	— 9,796



## CHILDREN.

On 31st December, 1968, the children on the register were classified as follows :—

							Blind	Partially Sighted
Under 5—								
At home.. .. .							2	2
In hospital .. .. .							—	—
5 — 15								
Attending special schools .. .. .							8	16
Attending other schools .. .. .							1	3
Not at school for health reasons .. .. .							—	—
Ineducable .. .. .							5	6
							—	—
							16	27
REGISTER OF GENERALLY HANDICAPPED							—	—
Total — 31st December, 1967 ..								1,221
Names added to register :—								
New cases .. .. .							155	
Transfers In .. .. .							—	
							—	155
								—
								1,376
Names removed from register :—								
Deaths .. .. .							70	
Left district and miscellaneous removals from register .. .. .							37	
							—	107
								—
Total — 31st December, 1968 ..								1,269

VISITS PAID TO AND ON BEHALF OF GENERALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS .. .. . 8,300

REGISTER OF DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING								
Total — 31st December, 1967 ..								283
Names added to register :—								
New cases .. .. .							30	
Transfers In .. .. .							—	
							—	30
								—
								313
Names removed from register :—								
Deaths .. .. .							5	
Left district and miscellaneous removals from register .. .. .							4	
							—	9
								—
Total — 31st December, 1968 ..								304

## VISITS PAID BY STAFF OF NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM MISSION

At home .. .. .	697
In hospitals .. .. .	91
At work .. .. .	69
On behalf of deaf.. .. .	142
	—
	999

(In addition, blind welfare officers in the North and West paid 115 visits to deaf persons).

TABLE 23

GENERAL HANDICAPPED—CLASSIFICATIONS  
(including Children under 16)

		Total on register 31st December	New cases registered during year
A/E	Amputation .. .. .	114	14
F	Arthritis and rheumatism .. ..	153	22
G	Congenital deformities .. .. .	90	6
H/L	Diseases of the digestive and genitourinary systems ; of the respiratory system (other than tuberculosis) and of the skin :—		
	Asthma .. .. .	14	—
	Bronchitis and bronchiectasis .. ..	25	4
	Valvular disease of the heart, angina pectoris, cardiac degeneration, myocarditis, rheumatic heart, mitral stenosis .. .. .	30	4
	Miscellaneous .. .. .	11	3
		— 80	—
Q/T	Injuries of the head, face, neck, thorax, abdomen, pelvis or trunk injuries or diseases (other than tuberculosis) of the upper or lower limbs and of the spine :—		
	Paraplegia .. .. .	84	10
	Osteomyelitis .. .. .	11	—
	Muscular atrophy, dystrophy .. ..	23	3
	Miscellaneous injuries .. .. .	105	13
		— 223	—
V	Organic nervous diseases :—		
	Disseminated Sclerosis .. .. .	145	20
	Epilepsy .. .. .	63	5
	Parkinson's Disease .. .. .	23	5
	Post Poliomyelitis .. .. .	94	6
	Cerebral Palsy .. .. .	87	4
	Hemiplegia .. .. .	124	28
	Encephalitis Lethargica .. .. .	5	—
	Miscellaneous .. .. .	24	2
		— 565	—
U/W	Neurosis, psychosis and other nervous and mental disorders (not included in V)	8	—
Y	Tuberculosis (non-respiratory) .. ..	11	1
Z	Miscellaneous .. .. .	25	5
		— 1,269	— 155

TABLE 24.  
HOUSING.

COUNTY DISTRICTS	NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING 1968				TOTAL 1967
	Local Authority	Other Housing Authority	Private	Total	
<i>Municipal Boroughs—</i>					
Berwick upon Tweed ..	334	—	47	381	81
Blyth .. ..	153	—	15	168	158
Morpeth .. ..	—	—	81	81	80
Wallsend .. ..	188	—	233	421	99
Whitley Bay .. ..	24	—	45	69	57
<i>Urban Districts—</i>					
Alnwick .. ..	37	1	22	60	12
Amble .. ..	12	—	2	14	5
Ashington .. ..	86	—	5	91	186
Bedlingtonshire ..	—	—	11	11	24
Gosforth .. ..	51	—	74	125	167
Hexham .. ..	—	—	30	30	43
Longbenton .. ..	333	110 *	13	456	441
Newbiggin by the Sea ..	80	88 <sup>†</sup>	45	213	18
Newburn .. ..	145	557 *	267	969	490
Prudhoe .. ..	—	—	90	90	27
Seaton Valley .. ..	586	—	460	1,046	372
Boroughs and Urban Districts Total .. ..	2,029	756	1,440	4,225	2,260
<i>Rural Districts—</i>					
Alnwick .. ..	8	—	6	14	44
Belford .. ..	18	—	15	33	9
Bellingham .. ..	—	—	5	5	31
Castle Ward .. ..	108	154 *	114	376	450
Glendale .. ..	2	—	8	10	4
Haltwhistle .. ..	30	—	3	33	59
Hexham .. ..	70	—	142	212	86
Morpeth .. ..	22	—	41	63	206
Norham and Islandshires ..	35	—	5	40	4
Rothbury .. ..	12	—	8	20	16
Rural Districts Total ..	305	154	347	806	909
TOTALS .. ..	2,334	910	1,787	5,031	3,169

\* by Newcastle Corporation

‡ by Ashington U.D.C.



TABLE 25.  
SLUM CLEARANCE.

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	Formal Action		Discon- tinued Inform- ally	Deducthouses in Col. 1 prev- iously report- ed as 'Closed'	Total Discontinued
	Demol- ished	Closed not Demolished			
<i>Municipal Boroughs—</i>					
Berwick upon Tweed ..	25	3	—	4	24
Blyth .. ..	41	18	—	—	59
Morpeth .. ..	—	1	—	—	1
Wallsend .. ..	102	4	—	—	106
Whitley Bay .. ..	3	3	—	—	6
<i>Urban Districts—</i>					
Alnwick .. ..	5	—	2	—	7
Amble .. ..	2	—	—	—	2
Ashington .. ..	182	—	—	—	182
Bedlingtonshire ..	92	18	2	12	100
Gosforth .. ..	77	—	—	—	77
Hexham .. ..	5	1	—	—	6
Longbenton .. ..	—	52	—	—	52
Newbiggin by the Sea ..	—	80	—	—	80
Newburn .. ..	12	50	—	12	50
Prudhoe .. ..	22	—	—	—	22
Seaton Valley .. ..	149	6	1	—	156
Boroughs and Urban Districts Total ..	717	236	5	28	930
<i>Rural Districts—</i>					
Alnwick .. ..	5	—	—	—	5
Belford .. ..	2	1	—	—	3
Bellingham .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Castle Ward .. ..	2	—	—	—	2
Glendale .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Haltwhistle .. ..	—	1	1	—	2
Hexham .. ..	2	24	—	—	26
Morpeth .. ..	69	—	6	—	75
Norham and Islandshires	5	—	—	—	5
Rothbury .. ..	—	—	2	—	2
Rural Districts Total ..	85	26	9	—	120
TOTALS .. ..	802	262	14	28	1050

TABLE 26.

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS—(I) Standard Grants.

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	Number of separate houses for which grants were made	
	During 1968	Total to Date
<i>Municipal Boroughs—</i>		
Berwick upon Tweed .. .. .	5	55
Blyth .. .. .	9	104
Morpeth .. .. .	14	118
Wallsend .. .. .	22	342
Whitley Bay .. .. .	9	69
<i>Urban Districts—</i>		
Alnwick .. .. .	10	57
Amble .. .. .	5	33
Ashington .. .. .	17	125
Bedlingtonshire .. .. .	9	92
Gosforth .. .. .	45	186
Hexham .. .. .	6	62
Longbenton .. .. .	36	159
Newbiggin by the Sea .. .. .	11	129
Newburn .. .. .	21	261
Prudhoe .. .. .	6	37
Seaton Valley .. .. .	22	181
Boroughs and Urban Districts Total ..	247	2,010
<i>Rural Districts—</i>		
Alnwick .. .. .	13	284
Belford .. .. .	4	44
Bellingham .. .. .	8	44
Castle Ward .. .. .	10	58
Glendale .. .. .	1	166
Haltwhistle .. .. .	7	92
Hexham .. .. .	17	148
Morpeth .. .. .	6	92
Norham and Islandshires .. .. .	—	24
Rothbury .. .. .	2	35
Rural Districts Total .. .. .	68	987
TOTALS .. .. .	315	2,997

## NUMBER OF HOUSES PROVIDED WITH

	Bath or Shower	Washhand Basin	Hot Water Supply	Water Closet	Food Store
1968 .. .. .	198	201	208	308	204
Total to Date.. .. .	1946	2192	1930	2401	1657

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS—(2) Discretionary Grants.

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	Applications dealt with during 1968			Total approved to date
	Submitted to Local Authority	Rejected	Approved	
<i>Municipal Boroughs—</i>				
Berwick upon Tweed .. .. .	17	—	17	227
Blyth .. .. .	30	—	30	384
Morpeth .. .. .	11	1	10	168
Wallsend .. .. .	47	—	40	574
Whitley Bay .. .. .	1	1	—	66
<i>Urban Districts—</i>				
Alnwick .. .. .	12	—	12	143
Amble .. .. .	9	—	9	265
Ashington .. .. .	109	—	109	2,413
Bedlingtonshire .. .. .	33	—	33	1,061
Gosforth .. .. .	3	1	2	2
Hexham .. .. .	6	—	6	209
Longbenton .. .. .	51	—	51	308
Newbiggin by the Sea .. .. .	9	—	9	214
Newburn .. .. .	6	—	6	313
Prudhoe .. .. .	8	—	8	170
Seaton Valley .. .. .	4	—	4	196
Boroughs and Urban Districts Total .. .. .	356	3	346	6,713
<i>Rural Districts—</i>				
Alnwick .. .. .	22	—	22	490
Belford .. .. .	4	—	4	262
Bellingham .. .. .	10	—	10	305
Castle Ward .. .. .	6	—	6	479
Glendale .. .. .	10	—	10	616
Haltwhistle .. .. .	38	—	38	349
Hexham .. .. .	46	—	46	1,215
Morpeth .. .. .	4	—	4	612
Norham and Islandshires .. .. .	8	—	8	306
Rothbury .. .. .	7	—	8	373
Rural Districts Total .. .. .	155	—	156	5,007
TOTALS .. .. .	511	3	502	11,720







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